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## REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

### AUSTRALIA.

*Reminiscences of Australia; with Hints on the Squatter's Life.* By C. P. Hodgson. Pp. 367. London, W. N. Wright; Simpkin and Marshall.

It seems to us that there has been a publication about Australia every month or three weeks throughout the season; and yet so wide and diversified is the field, we are always able to pick out some novelties from the later issues. *Pereant que ante nos nostra dixerunt* is not yet the motto of this, the last of the Squatters; and any body going to "the bush" will do well to make himself acquainted with these pages. They treat largely of the new Government-regulations, which have caused so great a sensation in the colony, and which he warmly reprobates;\* and of the extensive sheep farming, which constitutes its grand staple. But we leave these considerations, important as they are, to be weighed by parties concerned in them, where they can be found, in the work itself, unabbreviated or condensed (and thereby most probably injured) by us. Of the country generally Mr. Hodgson is an enthusiastic admirer, and the freedom and even perils of the squatter's life appear to have had great charms for him.

"The whole scenery up the Hunter (he says) is either grand, romantic, or elegant, varying oft its appearance; it is a scene once beheld never forgotten. The numberless farms, estates, waving with every production of the East; the splendid trees, the vales and mountains, the islands and groves, are not to be seen every day. It is a beautiful river. Gowrie, on the Darling Downs, is the brightest jewel of the district; the plains are small and narrow, like arms of the sea running between romantic ranges, yet rendered lively by the numerous herds winding down their silent bays; the bluff head or Sugar Loaf, the convulsively detached hill, the distant horizon of ranges, and the meandering creek, are other natural advantages. The paddocks, barn, huts, and outhouses, bespeak its having passed over into the hands of the civilising white man. I could mention many other sweet spots: Killarney, the Brisbane river near Mr. Scott's, Byron Plains, the Bundarrath, Hawkesbury, need only to be seen and acknowledged as being each of them spots worthy the clime of the East. The climate

\* *Es. gr.* "I have proved that it is barely possible to pay the proposed additional taxes either as a sheep or cattle-holder without strict economy and self-denial. And who deserves to be the victim of such monsters? The man who lives in affluence and security in the midst of plenty and amusement; or the man who has had nothing to eat upon but bread and beef for breakfast and beef and bread for dinner? If additional taxes were absolutely required, why should not the man who lives like the 'luxurious slave,' and lives without any care, save that of satisfying a sensual appetite, or looking after filthy lucre with an avaricious affection, be made to meet the demand? Ought not the heroes who brave all dangers, and chance ultimate success, to be treated with favour, or at least listened to with patience, when the general voice of all cries out for justice and moderation? The squatters have not rebelled, they have not exaggerated their case, but they claim their right to be heard; and if I know them aright, as I believe I do, they will be heard for justice's sake. I have not denied the capability of the squatter to meet the present assessment; but I say he is a fool, and government is unjust if uncertainties are allowed to be taxed. Money must be obtained if it is wanted; but why should the unfortunate, meek, yet patient, sheep, be preferred to the wily and preying unscrupulous? Let the squatter know the end of a thing and he will exert himself to meet the demands: let him see his way, and he will not be backward in coming forward; but try to bully him, try to bounce him, and I trust he will show the muscles of his pasture, and be ever ready to prove his feelings emigrated with him from the island of liberty and rights."

[Enlarged 38.]

of Australia is exquisite; old age is unknown, for we revel in the enjoyment of perpetual youth. *Æson* would never have required a *Medea's* aid; or if he had, the vigorous herbs would not long be sought for in vain. Australia certainly can boast of a splendid climate. How else could we live? How could we travel in the bush exposed to all weathers, with no other canopy than the heavens? How could we perform our daily journeys? How could our sheep produce such fine wool, and our cattle such sleek carcasses?"

There may be some drawbacks:

"There is, however, a great and sudden change during the winter months,—a frost in the morning, and the thermometer at 75° in a few hours!—six blankets over you at night, and no waistcoat endurable at midday: still, if deaths only occurred from the influence of this climate I think the burial-grounds would never be filled; but unfortunately, man will abuse both constitution and climate, and where one dies naturally, twenty die from 'delirium tremens,' or other diseases brought on by dissipation and vice. Man could not lie for weeks with half a blanket for mattress, and the other half for a cover, in any climate; yet how many are obliged to do it here. Men could not, after heavy labour, hard work, and inflamed blood, drink the coldest water without feeling some bad effects from it in England: here it is common. No person at home thinks of giving a horse water when he is warm: here it is the custom. No dampness—no fear of catching cold. Australia can boast of a splendid climate."

"A free trade will not affect Australia more than the rest of the world. Our imports of the first class are wool, tallow, hides, and oil; these we can produce as cheap as others. Wines, tobacco, maize, and corn, will soon follow, unrivalled and unequalled: the want of labour only prevents the first three from being more generally cultivated and exported, their quality being splendid; the latter is more dependent on seasons. Australia can grow any thing but rice and tea; Australia has money and enterprising men, and will be content with as little profit as her neighbours. We want tea; well, China wants meat, and perhaps wool. We want manufactures; England wants the raw material. No country is independent—'one' only constitutes part of the whole, and each must afford what the other has not, for its own emolument."

"Farewell, Australia! Be careful of your own self-respect; go on steadily, and you will be a great nation,—though I cannot help observing, that you are already too great for your population; i.e. you occupy too much country, and are too widely dispersed—passing over much that is good, and only picking at the pie-crust."

"I myself (our author continues) have been for days wet through, and glad to meet with a little dry spot to sleep upon. I have selected a little piece of elevated ground, with on either side of me pools of water, from which, without moving, I could take my quart-pot full whenever I was thirsty. On arising in the morning, a full-length portrait was most faithfully delineated in the soft earth, yet I never felt any illness or pain; and though such adventures might be attended with fatal results in England, they are so common and general that they are disregarded in the antipodes. The sudden change from cold or frost to intense heat might be naturally expected to be unhealthy; I can only say, I never heard of the variation producing bad effects. ••• The thunder-storms in Australia are tremendous, sudden, and frequent; in an hour

the whole surface is covered with water, and little courses roll down the hills in torrents. I have seen cattle-tracks, a little worn below the surface, carrying off the water; they become dry, and crack; the next rain converts the crack into a fissure, which gradually widens and extends itself till it becomes a large gully. On old used dray-roads the quantity of little streams is surprising, caused in a similar way. I have seen a thrice-reflected rainbow during one of these storms; I have seen whole forests denuded of every leaf, and as bare as a wood in the winter season in England; I have seen the grass beaten down so that not a blade could be seen erect, and the earth so full of little marks that I fancied a flock of sheep had been over it. This was caused by a hail-storm in the month of September. I have known a shepherd return home nearly dead, one mass of bruises and gore from head to foot, and forty of his flock actually killed on the spot. I have known a plain, sixteen miles broad, one sheet of water; to pass through which my horse often had to sink over his shoulder, and a little favourite dog had to swim frequently for a hundred yards. This may give some idea of our rains. I was residing 200 miles down the Condamine River, that is, from its source; and after a week's rain, and no flood near me, I began to think it would not reach as far. On the tenth morning, however, I was undeceived. The river had risen thirty feet during the night, and was still increasing, though the distance between the two places is not actually more than seventy miles in a straight line."

Mentioning the geological remains, with which our readers are well acquainted through our accounts of Prof. Owen's investigations, Mr. H. says:

"I find the fossils are chiefly obtained from the sides or banks of creeks, from three to twelve feet below the surface. The two upper feet are generally the black Australian earth, underneath which is an argillaceous breccia, consisting of shells, muscles, and calcareous pebbles. Most of our creeks are in the middle of a large plain, rising from the main range, having large water-holes, and bounded in on either side at some distance by whinstone ranges. The shell-fish are still living in the water with which the breccia is impregnated, or rather composed of. Red ferruginous earth, with calcareous pebbles, is a sure and certain find; or a bed of sand with concretions of lime. I have found specimens near the River Condamine, but they are the only ones I ever heard of as having been found on black soil alone, and so far from the mountains. The specimens are those of different animals,—the dinotherion, tapir, macropus, and emu; and it is a singular fact, that all the emu and kangaroo bones are black, as if they had been subjected to the action of fire. The others are very old and perfect, but not blackened; proving, therefore, the antiquity of the native animals, and their eaters."

"By diligent search, I used to perceive a small piece of bone or suspicious matter projecting a little from the front or side of the bank. I then immediately but carefully set to work with bayonet and hammer, and was generally repaid for my trouble; but the majority of pieces were so small, and often so soft, that, on exposure to air they dropped to pieces too minute and numerous to be re-collected. They are remains of gigantic monsters unknown now, though tradition affirms that they are still to be met with far west, at the great lakes. The best specimens I have heard of are those collected by Mr. F. N. Isaac, on the Darling Downs, and lately sent home to be examined. I am informed by two

respectable witnesses, that unknown noises have been heard at night-time in the larger waterholes. A gentleman residing on the Bundarra river relates a curious anecdote about the existence of these monsters. During the heavy flood of 1844, he was aroused by his servant, who brought intelligence of 'a large animal' having come up the river, making a tremendous noise. He went to the spot, which was only a few hundred yards from the house, and to his astonishment beheld 'a large animal,' with two white deciduous tusks, playing in the stream,—at one moment visible, and immediately after diving under the water. While absent for assistance and arms, 'the animal' disappeared. Mr. R. Gore (a neighbour on the Downs, or River Condamine, which divides the Downs from the 'swamps,' as they are generally called) informed me, that being encamped at a very large water-hole, on two successive nights he was awakened by loud and strange noises, like those caused by the revolutions of a water-mill. He saw nothing, but was convinced the noise was caused by some animal. This was also during the same flood; and as both rivers run into the Darling or Murray, it was the most probable time for their appearance, as they might be tempted by the immensity of water beyond their usual range, and retreat with the disappearing flood. Again, I heard from a Mr. Everitt, of New England, that on a piece of seal-skin being shown to the blacks, they asserted their knowledge of the animal. These reports are confirmed again by that of Captain Sturt, who mentioned having met with one black, who had travelled a long way from the north-west, and who said that there was a great lake abounding with monstrous animals. From all these accumulated accounts, I suspect that a species of hippopotamus must be the owner of these fossils, though they are attributed generally to the *Dinotherium Australe*. I tell the tales as they were told to me, and I do not believe them improbable. It is evident the blacks still fear to bathe in large water-holes, owing to traditions about some enormous animal; and moreover, some particular sheets of water are still regarded with superstitious awe. I have seen them horrified at my bathing in them.

In the botanical department we have also some interesting acquisitions. Thus:

*Xylomelum pyroforme*, or native pear. Seed pendent, woody, pear-shaped, divided into two equal parts, a feather-light seed inside, like the sycamore's; wood very hard, bark scaly, leaves small, ovate—sign of bad soil. The iron bark (*eucalyptus*) is so called from the hardness of the outer bark, which is often an inch in thickness, and not to be cut through by the stoutest man, with the stoutest axe, at the first or even second blow. There are two species, distinguished by their leaves, ovate or lanceolate, both of which are green above and white beneath, giving the foliage a singular appearance when agitated by the winds. The beautiful, elegant, sweet-scented, silvery myall, or *acacia pendula*, must not be forgotten. Fancy an elegant drooping willow, with leaves of green, tinged by a white, resembling a widow's crape, hanging drooping gracefully down in long ringlets of two feet or more; from its bark exudes a clear, crystal tear, which congeals, and is gathered by any passer by. A meet shade for the dead! Its wood scents a whole room; and any article made of it, when rubbed in the hand, leaves an exquisite perfume, similar to that of our double violet.

The urtica, or nettle, is of an enormous size; being a large tree, with leaves that once seen and felt will never be forgotten. I remember well, in my search for plants, that, heedless of this gentleman's proximity, and gazing up as I walked along, I was only roused from my meditations by a too forcible appeal to my feelings,—my face and breast being exposed, or only defended by a thin shirt, were covered with one mass of blisters instantaneously. In my endeavours to extricate myself, my hand and arms, bare to the elbow, were visited in the same manner. I rushed out of the scrub like a

madman, threw myself on the ground, and rolled over and over for twenty minutes in the most excruciating agony. I shall never forget the nettles of Australia! I had seen it growing to the height of thirty feet, but this particular beast was dwarfish—little things often make a great impression. The *compositae* are a very numerous order, often unnamed and undecided upon. The *gnaphalium*, and *campanula* vary the tinge of the plains for many miles: the everlasting is frequent. I cannot omit mentioning my delicate friend the fringed violet, whose beautiful purple flowers, supported on delicate round stems, and fringed with webs of finest texture, just peep above the grass, and can never fail to strike the passer-by with admiration. The trumpet-flower (*datura*) is a large monopetalous, campanulate tree, white and odorous, growing to the height of fifteen feet, and completely covered with its trumpets. Therefore I hope to prove the assertion, that Australia's flowers do not emit a perfume, Australia's trees do not bear fruit, to be incorrect; and I will prove that Australia's birds sing, and rivers run, to the satisfaction of those who assert the contrary to be the case. Amongst the *myrtaceae*, another numerous order, of which the eucalypti form a part, their affinity is at once told by their scent; and *en passant* through the scrubs it is a constant amusement to pluck the leaves, rub them in the palm of the hand, and apply them to the nose. The reason for the assertion that the flowers do not smell is, that in these warm climates the volatile oil escapes by the heat of the sun, and during the heat of the day it is absorbed as soon as emitted; but in the morning, when the dew is on the grass, the united perfume of the whole family of plants is truly delightful. Trees do not bear fruit, is another assertion. They do. Witness the banya, the native plum, the chestnut, the fusanus, the solanums, the figs, and many other minor plants, such as raspberries, currants (a *solanum*), &c.

There is a peculiar grass on our large plains which grows not unlike the broom millet, in little bushes. It is a harvest with the natives; the grass is very fine; they cut it, lay it in heaps to dry, and pound it between two stones into flour. The oat grass (*anthistria*) is an enormous fellow, growing to the height of seven and eight feet, with stems as yellow as corn. It has a grain, which by cultivation might become useful; and its stalk is so succulent and juicy, that the traveller often pulls it to munch when thirst or hunger compels him to look out, and water is not to be found. It is a singular fact, that of all our English vegetables, fruits, and herbs, a large majority are to be found in a wild state in our bush; lettuce, thyme, carrot, onions, peas, cucumbers, raspberries, spinach, lemons, gourd, chestnut, pear, oats, fig, plum, are frequently met with, besides many others.

And of the animals:

The native dog (*koala*) is very like the fox in ears, face, teeth, and expression; in habits, much more so; it sneaks, crawls, stinks, is a coward, and, though sometimes seen hunting in packs, generally a solitary, or only with its mate. I have seen them generally about eighteen inches high, and about three feet long from the snout to the tip of the tail. It affords excellent sport, and will turn round upon its pursuers if sorely pressed, snapping with its teeth. It cannot bite like a dog, but its snap when inflicted is very venomous, and often causes death. I have heard the howlings of one answering the other all night, and each moment increasing as the chorus joined in. The row was awfully melancholy. They breed with the tame dogs, and their progeny is greatly prized, and admirably adapted for the stock-keeper's use; they are excellent slaves, having acquired the art of barking and biting, with their natural hardy constitutions. It is a great enemy to sheep, and consequently never spared. I have galloped one down after ten minutes' hard work, and swinging my stock-whip three or four times round in the air, inflicted such a blow with the leaden end of the handle that it

has fallen down stunned, and I have then had time to get down and cut its throat. But even then it may not be dead; I have seen them with their hind legs hamstrung, their throat cut and crawling off. They will sham, shut their eyes, and lie to all appearance dead, but before you are a hundred yards off they will rise up and run away. They attack a whole flock of sheep, and though they may not actually kill more than one on the spot, yet perhaps fifty or sixty more are bitten, and the loss is so deadly that few recover from it.

The want of religious instruction in the Bush is strongly complained of:

"I must say a few words about our church management, in the wild Bush particularly. Our district was first settled upon in 1840. From that period up to the date of my leaving it in 1845, a Protestant clergyman had actually visited us once, had made a tour round many of the stations, had married one or two couples, and christened one or two infants. Never again since, has a minister of the church of England been amongst us; and I doubt if ever he will, unless it is to fill his pocket by persuasive appeals. It is a truly disgraceful fact, that the sleepy defenders and advocates of our faith will look upon the zealous efforts of their Papist antagonists without feeling any of their ardour, or endeavouring to counteract the evils they may disseminate. We have a church at Moreton Bay, for the support of which every squatter readily contributed his annual subscription, under the belief that his station would be periodically visited by the clergyman; but, owing to the lukewarm spirit manifested in Sydney for the cause, the squatters have become disgusted at their treatment, and have very generally withdrawn their support. At nearly every establishment there are families; and of course parents are desirous of having their children christened. Yet I have known a minister within fifty miles of the station refuse or neglect to go and officiate on such an occasion. I have known a minister, again, gallop through the service as hard as he could, and when it was concluded turn upon his heel and say, 'There's one more station settled! It is a shame, in a country where religion has been so little thought of—where the presence of a clergyman is so peculiarly required—where he is sure to be welcomed and respectfully entertained—and where his exertions would be gratefully acknowledged, and his toils handsomely remunerated—that there is no one to strengthen, exhort, or cheer men, by proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation on repentance. There is no place in the world, perhaps, better adapted for the conversion of a sinner than the Bush; alone for weeks, a man must meditate and cast many a retrospective glance to bygone days—to years of sin and wickedness, folly and mispent time. He hears of religion and his Bible, but never meets with a professor of the one, or an expositor of the other; he feels remorse and sorrow for his past life—wishes to reform, but knows not how; and all the good resolutions he has framed are forgotten at the first public-house. Now a respectable minister, who will zealously engage in the task, and converse kindly with the men, will ever reap an abundant harvest of gratification to himself and good will to his profession. He will wean many from their seducing enemy, and strengthen others in their wavering principles. Oh, yes; it is a great shame that we have no proper persons to preach Jesus Christ in the wilderness, and to remind man that his prayers will be acceptable when made in the rude bark hut, or under the vault of heaven, as ever they could be if made in the noblest cathedrals. It is not in our districts alone that this neglect is felt; there is no resident clergyman above Scone on the Hunter's river; and, over a distance of 300 miles there has seldom, if ever, been heard the voice of a preacher. I have met Roman Catholic priests all over the country; they are always on the wing—itinerant ministers. And this is the style of person we want—a gentleman, yet one who would ride from station to station, an example of morality, and a patient



spounder of the word. I am glad of being able to say, that public worship is performed at many private establishments in our districts, and the Sabbath generally. Masters collect together as many of their men as possible on the Sabbath, and read prayers to them, sometimes adding a short sermon. The men are generally attentive, listen with pleasure, and the master gains respect and credit by his exertions. Can men who have from their earliest infancy been religiously educated, or who from mere custom have imbibed a love for the performance of divine service, in a moment forget their old habits? No; the Sabbath is respected by the squatters; no unnecessary work is done; and it is a day on which all appear dressed in clean garments; cleanliness is next to godliness, and here the latter preached more zealously and frequently, the manners, lives, and behaviour of the old bushmen would be vastly ameliorated. I am only glad to admit, that temperance is fast gaining strength everywhere.

[To be continued.]

#### COURT AND LITERARY RECOLLECTIONS.

*Lettres of Madame D'Arbly.* Edited by her Niece. Vol. VI. Pp. 374. Colburn. PORTRAIT of Madame de Staël, queerly enough, the frontispiece embellishment of this volume, which covers the years of the life of Madame Arbly from 1798 to 1812; during which period she resided the latter dozen in France, and going to Paris relates the following piece of history about the lady in question: "On the 25th of April 1802, the assembly at Madame de Staël's was one of the most select and agreeable at which I was ever present. Assembly, however, I ought not to call a meeting within the number of twenty. But I was uneasy for my poor father, and therefore stole away as soon as possible; but, however, till Madame de Staël made a party on the following Thursday at her house, which I had held a private discourse with Madame de Staël upon my embarrassment as Madame de Staël, from the character she held in England; which embarrassment was not much relieved by her telling me it was not held more in France! Yet that everywhere the real life is highly exaggerated by report, envy, and party-spirit, all allow. She gives, however, great pleasure at which all Paris assist, and though she is solicited or esteemed by her early friends and acquaintance, she is admired, and pitied, and revered by them. I would she were gone to Copet! Madame de Grandmoulin, a very favourite friend of M. d'Arbly, came to visit me. She is a very handsome woman; and though very clever and agreeable; but I was too much disturbed either to enjoy or judge of her conversation. What most surprised me at this period was the following note from Madame de Staël:

From Madame de Staël to Madame D'Arbly.

"Je voudrais vous le poigner mon empressément, Madame, et je craignais d'être indiscret. J'espère que vous aurez la bonté de me faire dire quand vous serez assez remise des fatigues de votre voyage pour que je puisse avoir l'honneur de vous voir dans vos importunités. NECKER STAEL DE R. Ce 4 floral.

Now it is possible, when even the common civility of a card for her card is yet unreturned, that she may have brought herself thus to descend from her proud heights to solicit the renewal of an acquaintance broken so abruptly in England, and so palpably shunned in France? Is it that the regard she appeared to conceive for me in England was not only sincere but constant? If so, I must very much indeed regret a waste of kindness her character and conduct make it impossible for me to repay, even though, on this spot, I am assured all her misfortunes are aggravated, nay caricatured, by report, and that she exerts her utmost influence, and calls forth her best talents, upon every occasion

which presents itself for serving those who have been her friends; and that, notwithstanding circumstances and disunion, either in politics or morals, may have made them become her enemies. Her generosity is cited as truly singular upon this head, and I have heard histories of her returning, personally, good for evil that would do honour to any character living. What a strangely complex mixture, my dearest father, is that mixture which forms human nature! That good, or rather grand qualities, may unite with almost every frailty! After much deliberation and discussion, my French master composed the following answer:

"Madame d'Arbly ne peut qu'être infiniment flattée de l'extrême bonté de Madame la Comtesse de Staël. Elle aura très certainement l'honneur de se présenter chez Madame de Staël aussitôt que possible."

"Cooler than this it was not easy to write, and the *ne peut qu'être* is a *tournure* that is far enough from flattering. I hope, however, it will prepare her for the frozen kind of intercourse which alone can have place between us."

Pauvre De Staël; she was not only polite to the visitor to Paris in her lifetime, but has been made to adorn her book when dead. The vanity of virtue was only one of the phases in which that ruling passion exercised its influence on the author of *Decline and Cecilia*. Every where, and in all cases, the importance of self illustrates if it does not colour (as we fear it often does) her views and statements. In 1812, when a sexagenarian, she writes:

"When I first went to France, being continually embarrassed for terms, I used constantly to apply to M. d'Arbly for aid, till Madame de Staël charged him to be quiet, saying that my looks filled up what my words left short, '*de sorte que*' she added, '*nous la devinâmes*': this was the case between my Spaniards and myself, and we *devinâmes* one another so much to our mutual satisfaction, that while this was the converse the most to my taste of any I had had at Dunkirk, it was also, probably, most to theirs of any that had fallen to their lot since they had been torn from their native country."

This observation belongs to a tale of childish terror, told at length, about a police-officer at Dunkirk, who threatened the author for speaking to some Spanish prisoners on their promenade. But we must take the narration of this volume in order, in order to be better understood by our readers. After her marriage with M. d'Arbly, and residence with him in a cottage ("*maisonnette*") not far from Dorking, we have quite enough of her husband, her baby-boy ("*bambino*"), making the pair of her "precious Alexanders."

1798. "Lady Strange inquired if I had any family; and when she gathered I had a little one down stairs in the carriage, she desired to see it, for little Bell was wild in the request. 'But—have *nae mair*!' cried she; 'the times are bad and hard,—ha' *nae mair*! if you take my advice, you'll ha' *nae mair*! you've been very discreet, and, faith, I commend you!' Little Bell had run down stairs to hasten Betty and the child, and now, having seized him in her arms, she sprang into the room with him. His surprise, her courage, her fondling, her little form, and her prettiness, had astonished him into consenting to her seizure; but he sprang from her to me the moment they entered the drawing-room. I begged Lady Strange to give him her blessing. She looked at him with a strong and earnest expression of examining interest and pleasure, and then, with an arch smile, turning suddenly about to me, exclaimed, 'Ah! faith and troth, you mun ha' some mair! if you can make 'em so pratty as this, you mun ha' some mair! Sweet bairn! I gi' you my benediction! be a comfort to your papa and mamma! Ah, madam!' (with one of her deep sighs) 'I must gi' my consent to your having some mair! if you can make 'em so pratty as this, faith and troth I mun let you have a girl!' I write all this without scruple to my dearest Susan, for *prattiness* like this little urchin's is not likely to *spoil* either him or ourselves by lasting. 'Tis a juvenile

flower, yet one my Susan will again, I hope, view while still in its first bloom."

Madame took Lady Strange's prophetic advice, and had a daughter: thus coming events cast their shadows before! But the triviality of these family affairs (which, perhaps, in the affectionate task of the editress, could, if wished, hardly be avoided) is relieved by the publication of *Camilla* in 1796, and occasional visits to the queen and princesses, who seem ever to have continued their most kind and gracious favours to their ex-attendant. Indeed, her picture of the court, with all its formalities, etiquettes, and difficulties, gives us the most favourable idea of the considerate and amiable characters of Queen Charlotte and her daughters, not forgetting the good old king. Upon the presentation of her new work in person, for example, we read:

"I made a visit to Mlle. Jacobi, who is a very good creature, and with whom I remained very comfortably till her majesty and the princesses returned from Frogmore, where they had passed two or three hours. Almost immediately I was summoned to the queen by one of the pages. She was just seated to her hairdresser. She conversed upon various public and general topics till the friseur was dismissed, and then I was honoured with an audience, quite alone, for a full hour and a half. In this, nothing could be more gracious than her whole manner and discourse. The particulars, as there was no pause, would fill a duodecimo volume at least. Among them was Mr. Windham, whom she named with great favour, and gave me the opportunity of expressing my delight upon his belonging to the government. We had so often conversed about him during the accounts I had related of Mr. Hastings's trial, that there was much to say upon the acquisition to the administration, and my former round assertions of his goodness of heart and honour. She inquired how you did, my dearest father, with an air of great kindness; and when I said well, looked pleased as she answered, 'I was afraid he was ill, for I saw him but twice last year at our music.' She then gave me an account of the removal of the concert to the Haymarket since the time I was admitted to it. She talked of some books and authors, but found me wholly in the clouds as to all that is new. She then said, 'What a very pretty book Dr. Barneby has brought out upon Metastasio! I am very much pleased with it. Pray (smiling) what will he bring out next?' 'As yet, madam, I don't know of any new plan.' 'But he will bring out something else?' 'Most probably; but he will rest a little first, I fancy.' 'Has he nothing in hand?' 'Not that I now know of, madam.' 'Oh, but he soon will!' cried she, again smiling. 'He has so lively a mind, madam, that I believe it quite impossible to him to be utterly idle; but, indeed, I know of no present design being positively formed.' We had then some discourse upon the new connexion at Norbury Park, the FitzGerals, &c.; and I had the opportunity to speak as highly as I believe her to deserve of Mrs. Charles. The queen had thought Miss Angerstein was dead. From this she led to various topics of our former conferences, both in persons and things, and gave me a full description of her new house at Frogmore, its fitting up, and the share of each princess in its decoration. She spoke with delight of its quiet and ease, and her enjoyment of its complete retirement. 'I spend,' she cried, 'there almost constantly all my mornings. I rarely come home but just before dinner, merely to dress; but to-day I came sooner.' This was said in a manner so flattering, I could scarce forbear the air of thanking her; however, I checked the expression, though I could not the inference which urged it. At two o'clock the Princess Elizabeth appeared. 'Is the princess royal ready?' said the queen. She answered, 'Yes;' and her majesty then told me I might go to her, adding, 'You know the way, Madame D'Arbly.' And thus licensed, I went to the apartment of her royal

"Madame de Staël's orthography is here preserved."

highness upstairs. She was just quitting it. She received me most graciously, and told me she was going to sit for her picture, if I would come and stay with her while she sat. Miss Bab Planta was in attendance, to read during this period. The princess royal ordered me a chair facing her; and another for Miss Bab and her book, which, however, was never opened. The painter was Mr. Dupont. She was very gay and very charming; full of lively discourse and amiable condescension. In about an hour the Princess Augusta came in: she addressed me with her usual sweetness, and, when she had looked at her sister's portrait, said, "Madame d'Arblay, when the princess royal can spare you, I hope you will come to me," as she left the room. I did not flout her; and when I had been an hour with the princess royal, she told me she would keep me no longer from Augusta, and Miss Planta came to conduct me to the latter. This lovely princess received me quite alone; Miss Planta only shut me in; and she then made me sit by her, and kept me in most bewitching discourse more than an hour. She has a gaiety, a charm about her, that is quite resistless, and much of true, genuine, and very original humour. She related to me the history of all the feats, and exploits, and dangers, and escapes of her brothers during last year; rejoicing in their safety, yet softly adding, "Though these trials and difficulties did them a great deal of good." We talked a little of France, and she inquired of me what I knew of the late unhappy queen through M. d'Arblay, and spoke of her with the most virtuous discrimination between her foibles and her really great qualities, with her most barbarous end. She then dwelt upon Madame Royale, saying, in her unaffected manner, "It's very odd one never hears what sort of girl she is." I told her all I had gathered from M. d'Arblay. She next spoke of my Bambino, indulging me in recounting his *faits et gestes*, and never moved till the princess royal came to summon her. They were all to return to Frogmore to dinner. "We have detained Madame d'Arblay between us the whole morning," said the princess royal, with a gracious smile. "Yes," cried Princess Augusta, "and I am afraid I have bored her to death; but when once I begin upon my poor brothers, I can never stop without telling all my little bits of glory." She then outstayed the princess to tell me that, when she was at Plymouth, at church, she saw so many officers' wives, and sisters, and mothers, helping their maimed husbands, or brothers, or sons, that she could not forbear whispering to the queen, "Mamma, how lucky it is Ernest is just come so seasonably with that wound in his face! I should have been quite shocked, else, not to have had one little bit of glory among ourselves!"

It is very charming to find that, with fine dispositions, such harmless gaiety and social ease may lighten the restraints of royalty, and relax the heavy, trifling, and wearisome ceremonies of a palace. No wonder that kings rejoice in retirements to Weymouth or Brighton, or queens to Claremont or Osburn House.\* In the foregoing extract the allusions to the princess royal refer to her marriage; and a little after we are informed:

"A private letter from Windsor tells me the Prince of Wurtemberg has much pleased in the royal house, by his manners and address upon his interview, but that the poor princess royal was almost dead with terror, and agitation, and, as I might say, at the first meeting. She could not utter a word. The queen was obliged to speak her answers. The prince said he hoped this would be the last disturbance his presence would ever

occasion her. She then tried to recover, and so far conquered her tumult as to attempt joining in a general discourse from time to time. He paid his court successfully, I am told, to the sisters, who all determine to like him; and the princess royal is quite revived in her spirits again, now this tremendous opening sight is over."

At a future audience and friendly conversation with the queen, Madame d'Arblay says:

"She permitted me to speak a good deal of the Princess of Wurtemberg, whom they still all call princess royal. She told me she had worked her wedding garment, and entirely, and the real labour it had proved, from her steadiness to have no help, well knowing that three stitches done by any other would make it immediately said it was none of it by herself. 'As the bride of a widower,' she continued, 'I know she ought to be in white and gold; but as the king's eldest daughter, she had a right to white and silver, which she preferred.'"

And of another interesting personage we are told, when the king (Dec. 1797-8) returned from a review at Blackheath: "His majesty related very pleasantly a little anecdote of Lady —."

"She brought the little Princess Charlotte," he said, 'to me just before the review. "She hoped," she said, "I should not take it ill, for, having mentioned it to the child, she built so upon it that she had thought of nothing else!" Now this,' cried he, laughing heartily, 'was pretty strong! How can she know what a child is thinking of before it can speak?' I was very happy at the fondness they both expressed for the little princess. 'A sweet little creature,' the king called her; 'A most lovely child,' the queen turned to me to add; and the king said he had taken her upon his horse, and given her a little ride, before the regiment rode up to him. 'Tis very odd,' he added, 'but she always knows me on horseback, and never else.' 'Yes,' said the queen, 'when his majesty comes to her on horseback she claps her little hands, and endeavours to say "Gan-pa!" immediately.' I was much pleased that she is brought up to such simple and affectionate acknowledgment of relationship."

And proceeding to detail the conversation, and other royal anecdotes:

"The play they were going to was *The Merchant of Venice*, to see a new actress, just now much talked of—Miss Betterton; and the indulgent king, hearing she was extremely frightened at the thoughts of appearing before him, desired she might choose her own part for the first exhibition in his presence. She fixed upon *Portia*. In speaking of Miss Farren's marriage with the Earl of Derby, she displayed that sweet mind which her state and station has so wholly escaped sullying; for, far from expressing either horror, or resentment, or derision at an actress being elevated to the rank of second countess of England, she told me, with an air of satisfaction, that she was informed she had behaved extremely well since her marriage, and done many generous and charitable actions. She spoke with pleasure, too, of the high marriage made by another actress, Miss Wallis, who has preserved a spotless character, and is now the wife of a man of fortune and family, Mr. Campbell. In mentioning Mrs. Siddons, and her great and affecting powers, she much surprised me by intelligence that she had bought the proprietorship of Sadler's Wells. I could not hear it without some amusement; it seemed, I said, so extraordinary, a combination—so degrading a one, indeed,—that of the first tragic actress, the living *Melpomene*, and something so burlesque as Sadler's Wells. She laughed, and said it offered her a very ludicrous image, for 'Mrs. Siddons and Sadler's Wells,' said she, 'seems to me as ill fitted as the dish they call a toad in a hole; which I never saw, but always think of with anger—putting a noble sirloin of beef into a poor, paltry batter-pudding!'"

"The door now again opened, and another royal personage put in his head; and upon the princess saying, 'How d'ye do, William?' I recollected

the Duke of Clarence. I rose, of course, and made a civil bow to my curtsy. The princess asked him about the House of Lords the preceding evening, where I found he had spoken very handsomely and generously in eulogium of Admiral Duncan. Finding he was inclined to admit, the princess said to me, 'Madame d'Arblay, I beg you will sit down.' 'Pray, madam,' said the duke, 'let me beg you to be seated.' 'You know—you recollect Madame d'Arblay, don't you, William?' said the princess. He bowed civilly an affirmative, and then began talking to me of Chessington. How I grieved poor dear Kitty was gone! How great would have been her gratification to have heard that he mentioned her, and with an air of kindness, as if he had really entered into the solid goodness of her character. I was much surprised and much pleased yet not without some perplexity and some embarrassment, as his knowledge of the excellent Kitty was from her being the dupe of the mistress of the aide-de-camp. The princess, however, saved me any confusion beyond apprehension, for she asked not one question. He moved on towards the next apartment, and we were again alone. She then talked to me a great deal of him, and gave me, admirably, his character. She is very partial to him, but by no means blindly. He had very good parts, she said, but seldom did them justice. 'He has something of high importance to do,' she continued, 'he will exert himself to the utmost, and do it really well; but otherwise, he is so fond of his ease, he lets everything take its course. He must do a great deal, or nothing. However, really think, if he takes pains, he may make something of a speaker by-and-by in the house.'"

A prediction, or expectation, we may note, which was never realised by our sailor king!

"Returning then, according to my permission to Princess Elizabeth, she again took up her netting, and made me sit by her. We talked a good deal of the new-married daughter of Lady Templetown; and she was happy, she said, to hear from that the ceremony was performed by her own favourite Bishop of Durham, for she was sure a blessing would attend his joining their hands. She asked me much of my little man, and told me several things of the Princess Charlotte, her niece, and our future queen; she seems very fond of her, and says 'tis a lovely child, and extremely like the Prince of Wales. 'She is just two years old,' she said, 'and speaks very prettily, though not plain. I flatter myself Aunt Libby, as she calls me, is my great favourite with her.' My dearest Princess Augusta soon after came in, and, after staying a few minutes, and giving some message to her sister, said, 'And when you leave Elizabeth, my dear Madame d'Arblay, I hope you'll come to me.' It happened almost immediately, and I found her hurrying over the duty of her toilette, which she presently despatched, though she was going to public concert of ancient music, and without securing once looking in the glass, from haste to have done, and from a freedom from vanity I never saw equalled in any young woman of any class. She then dismissed her hairdresser and wardrobe woman, and made me sit by her. Almost immediately we began upon the voluntary contributions to the support of the war; and when I mentioned the queen's munificent donation of five thousand pounds a-year for its support, and my admiration of it from my peculiar knowledge, through my long residence under the royal roof, of the many claims which her majesty's benevolence, as well as that she had raised upon her powers, she seemed much gratified by the justice I did her royal mother, and exclaimed eagerly, 'I do assure you, my dear Madame d'Arblay, people ought to know more of the good the queen is, for they don't know it half. And then she told me that she only by accident had learnt almost all that she knew of the queen's bounties. 'And the most I gathered,' she continued, laughing, 'was, to tell you the real truth, my own impertinence; for when we were at Chesh-

\* *Apropos* of Osburn House. Her Majesty moved into the new portion on Tuesday, and they began taking down the old portion to make way for the erection of the new palace: the plans for which, we believe, are on a greater and more splendid scale than is generally supposed. Norris Castle, by the side of it, is so beautiful a building, and on so delightful a site, that we are at a loss to guess why her Majesty did not adopt it for her permanent residence. Ed. L. G.



ham, Lady Courtown (the queen's lady-in-waiting for the country) put her pocket-book down on the table, when I was alone with her, by some chance open at a page where mamma's name was written; so, not guessing any secret commission, I took it up, and read—Given by her majesty's commands—so much, and so much, and so much. I was quite surprised. However, Lady Courtown made me promise never to mention it to the queen; so I never have. But I long it should be known, for all that; though I would not take such liberty as to spread it of my own judgment.' I then mentioned my own difficulties formerly, when my majesty, upon my ill state of health's urging my resigning the honour of belonging to the royal household, so graciously settled upon me my pen name, that I had been forbidden to name it. I had been quite distressed in not avowing what I so gratefully felt, and hearing questions and surmises and remarks I had no power to answer. She seemed instantly to comprehend that my silence might do wrong, on such an occasion, to the queen; for she smiled, and with great quickness cried, 'O, I dare say you felt quite guilty in holding your tongue.' And she was quite pleased with the permission afterwards granted me to be explicit. When I spoke of her own and her royal sisters' contributions, 1000l. per annum, she blushed, but seemed ready to enter upon the subject, even confidentially, and related its whole history. No one ever advised me to do, that she named it to them, as they have none of them any separate establishment, but all hang upon the queen, from whose pin-money they are provided for till they marry, or have an household of their own granted by Parliament. 'Yet we all longed to subscribe,' cried she, 'and thought it quite right, if other young ladies did, not to be left out. But the difficulty was, how to do what would not be improper for us, and yet not to be generous at mamma's expense, for that would only have been unjust. So we consulted some of our friends, and then fixed upon 1000l. a-piece; and when we asked the queen's leave, she was so good as to approve it. So then she spoke to the king; and he said it was but little, but he wished particularly nobody should subscribe what would really distress them; and that, if that was all we could conveniently do, and regularly continue, he approved it more than to have us make greater exertion, and either bring ourselves into difficulties or not go on. But he was not at all angry.' She then gave me the history of the contribution of her brothers. The Prince of Wales would not give in his name without the leave of his brothers. 'But Ernest,' cried she, 'gives 3000l. a-year, and that's a tenth of his income, for the King allows him 30000l.'"

There is only one notice of the late Queen Caroline (in July, 1799):

"The visit to the P—ss of W. is charming. I am charmed she now lives so cheerfully and pleasantly. She seemed confined, not merely as a recluse, but a culprit, till quite lately; and now . . . your visit has just been succeeded by Mr. Pitt's! How can the premier be so much his own enemy in politics as well as happiness? for all the world, nearly, take her part; and all the world wholly agree she has been the injured person, though some few think she has wanted *reticence* and discretion in her resentment, the public nature of her connexion considered, which does not warrant the expectation of the same pure fidelity a chosen wife might look for."

At a later period Dr. Burney thus paints her husband (1805):

"Your brother, Dr. Charles, and I, have had the honour last Tuesday of dining with the Prince of Wales at Lord Melbourne's, at the particular desire of H.R.H. He is so good-humoured and gracious to those against whom he has no party prejudice, that it is impossible not to be flattered by his politeness and condescension. I was astonished to find him, amidst such constant dissipation, possessed of so much learning, wit, knowledge of books in general, discrimination of character, as

well as original humour. He quoted Homer in Greek to my son as readily as if the beauties of Dryden or Pope had been under consideration. And as to music he is an excellent critic; has an enlarged taste—admiring whatever is good in its kind, of whatever age or country the composers or performers may be; without, however, being insensible to the superior genius and learning necessary to some kinds of music more than others. The conversation was general and lively, in which several of the company, consisting of eighteen or twenty, took a share, till towards the heel of the evening, or rather the toe of the morning, for we did not rise from table till one o'clock, when Lady Melbourne being returned from the opera with her daughters, coffee was ordered; during which H.R.H. took me aside and talked exclusively about music near half an hour, and as long with your brother concerning Greek literature. He is a most excellent mimic of well-known characters: had he been in the dark any one would have sworn that Dr. Parr and Kemble were in the room. Besides being possessed of a great fund of original humour, and good humour, he may with truth be said to have as much wit as Charles II., with much more learning; for his merry majesty could spell no better than the *bourgeois gentil-homme*."

From such courtly matters we revert for a few minutes to what are literary, but must postpone this portion till our next No.

NORTH COUNTRY DIALECTS AND CUSTOMS.  
*A Glossary of North Country Words, with their Etymology, &c., and occasional Notices of Local Customs and Popular Superstitions.* By J. T. Brockett, F.S.A. Third Edit. 2 vols. 8vo. Newcastle.

THE merits of Brockett's *Glossary* have been so well appreciated by all students in English philology, that a third edition might appear to claim little additional commendation from us; but as it is a work of rather limited circulation, we do not hesitate to introduce it in its new form to our readers, extracting those notices of our curious North Country customs which may seem most interesting. With regard to the dialectal words, we really find few that call for observation; and, in truth, we are somewhat disappointed with the additional matter introduced by the editor, Mr. W. E. Brockett, who has undertaken to correct and enlarge his father's work, but who does not seem to have exercised that diligent care which it required and deserved. The typographical blunders, too, are sadly numerous, and, in the present state of the art of printing, almost unpardonable. With these drawbacks, we must, in fairness, admit the great value and utility of the work before us; and we trust it will meet, in its new form, with the same favour from the public that the former editions have received.

Although there are few works of any transcendental merit written in the English provincial dialects, yet who would desire their extinction, and the establishment of metropolitan speech and Cockney slang all over the country, in lieu of the rich brogue of the Yorkshiremen, or zing-zong of zunny Zomerzet? Nor are the dialects only valuable as characteristic of a people, but many a time and oft our best old writers, including Shakespeare, would be unintelligible were we to discard them from our philological studies. Our dramatic critics must even condescend to appeal to the "Yorkshire Ale" or "Tim Bobbin"; and these in their turn are illustrated by the older writers. Thus is often seen the importance of provincial trifles, apparently slang or modern, but traced back unchanged for centuries! Thus in the "North Countryer," when any thing has been burnt to the pan in boiling, or is spoiled in cooking; it is common to say, "The bishop has set his foot in it," or "it is bishopped." This curious phrase is very old, and derived from the episcopal disposition to burn heretics, as appears from Tyndale's "Obedience of a Chrysten Man," 1528: "When a thing speedeth not well, we borrow speech and say, the bishop hath blessed it, because that nothing speedeth well that they med-

dle withall; if the pottage be burnt too, or the meal over-roasted, we say, the bishop has put his foot in the pot, or the bishop hath played the cook, because the bishops burn who they lust, and whoever displeaseth them." (Brockett, vol. i. p. 38.) The phrase is also alluded to in Tusser.

The marriage-ceremonies in the North are curious, and little known amongst the more refined Southern. Brockett thus describes the *Bride-Ale*, the marriage-feast at a rustic wedding:

"The day of marriage has always been, and it is to be hoped, in spite of disconsolate old maids and love-crossed bachelors, will ever continue to be, a time of festivity. Among the rustics in Cumberland it glides away amidst music, dancing, and revelry. Early in the morning, the bridegroom, attended by his friends on horseback, proceeds in a gallop to the house of the bride's father. Having alighted, he salutes her, and then the company breakfast together. The repast concluded, the whole nuptial party depart in cavalcade order towards the church, accompanied by a fiddler, who plays a succession of tunes appropriate to the occasion. Immediately after the performance of the ceremony, the company retire to some neighbouring ale-house, and many a flowing bumper of home-brewed is quaffed to the health of the happy pair. Animated with this earthly nectar, they set off full speed towards the future residence of the bride, where a handkerchief is presented to the first who arrives. In some of the country villages in the county of Durham, after the connubial knot is tied, a ribbon is proposed as the subject of contention, either for a foot or a horse race,—supposed to be a delicate substitution for the bride's garter, which used to be taken off while she knelt at the altar; and the practice being anticipated, the garter was generally found to do credit to her taste and skill in needle work. In Craven, where this singular sport also prevails, whoever first reaches the bride's habitation is ushered into the bridal chamber, and, after having performed the ceremony of turning down the bed-clothes, returns, carrying in his hand a tankard of *warm ale*, previously prepared, to meet the bride, to whom he triumphantly offers his humble beverage, and by whom, in return, he is presented with the ribbon, as the honourable reward of his victory. Another ancient marriage-ceremony of the same sort, still observed in the remote parts of Northumberland, is that of *riding for the kail*, where the party, after kissing the bride, set off at full speed on horseback to the bridegroom's house, the winner of the race receiving the *kail*, or dish of spice broth, as the chief prize."

"*Bride-cake*.—The cake provided on the occasion of a wedding; a remnant of the ancient mode of solemnising a marriage by confarreation. In some places in the North it is customary, after the bridal party leave the church, to have a thin currant-cake, marked in squares, though not entirely cut through. A clean cloth being spread over the head of the bride, the bridegroom stands behind her and breaks the cake. Thus hallowed, it is thrown up and scrambled for by the attendants to excite prophetic dreams of love and marriage, and is said, by those who pretend to understand such things, to have much more virtue than when it is merely put nine times through the ring. This custom is generally prevalent in Scotland.

"*Bride wain*.—A custom in Cumberland and Northumberland, where the friends of a new-married couple assemble together in consequence of a previous invitation (sometimes actually by public advertisement in the newspapers), and are treated with cold pies, frummenty, and ale. The company afterwards join in all the various pastimes of the country; and at the conclusion, the bride and bridegroom are placed in two chairs, the former holding a pewter dish on her knee, half covered with a napkin. Into this dish every one present, high and low, makes it a point to put something; and these offerings occasionally amount to a considerable sum. I suppose it has obtained the name of *wain* from a very ancient custom, now obsolete,

in the North, of presenting a bride, who had no great stock of her own, with a wain or waggon-load of articles of use and luxury. On this occasion the wain was crowned with boughs and flowers, and the horses or oxen which drew it decorated with bride-favours. In some parts of the north fiding of Yorkshire, *bride-wain* was the train of carts that conveyed the goods of the bride, whether presented or not, to her future home. A former's daughter was married from Thornton into the neighbourhood of Malton about forty-five years ago, whose bride-wain consisted of twenty carts.

If we could proceed a little further into this subject, and enter into the wide field of Scottish customs, we should find no difficulty in collecting a volume of interest and novelty; but time and space forbid. Brackett would have been an able chronicler of the North Country peculiarities, and we regret his Glossary does not contain more notices than it does on those matters.

Many a provincialism has afforded matter for an anecdote; e.g. *chara*, a narrow lane or alley, less than a street. A laughable misunderstanding happened in an assize-court some years ago, when one of the witnesses in a criminal trial swore that "he saw three men come out of a *chara-foot*." "Gentlemen of the jury," exclaimed the learned judge, "you must pay no regard to that man's evidence; he must be insane." But the foreman, smiling, assured the judge that they understood him very well, and that he spoke the words of truth and soberness. The late Lord Eldon was born in a *chara-foot*, and in a facetious moment admitted it in court. We can add another of a similar kind. A late judge in his ramblings in the north saw a boy fishing, and asking him what fish he caught, he replied *awnacks*. Although his lordship was an enthusiastic admirer and disciple of Isaac Walton, never had this species occurred to him, and he mentioned his difficulty to a friend less learned in the art, but skilled in dialectic lore. By *awnacks*, the lad meant *all sorts*.

The North is redolent with superstitions of all kinds, and hope itself is often apparent only through the medium of credulity. None of our fair readers are old maids — so unpolite a phrase is unknown amongst them, and, we trust, quite inapplicable; but if any ever think they may be, let us teach them the way to make.

*Dumb-cake*. — A species of dreaming-bread, prepared by unmarried females, with ingredients traditionally suggested, in witching drolleries. When baked, it is cut into three divisions, — a part of each to be eaten, and the remainder to be put under the pillow. When the clock strikes twelve, each votary must go to bed backwards, and keep a profound silence, whatever may appear. Indeed, should a word be uttered, either during the process or before falling asleep, the charm is broken, and some direful calamity may be dreaded. Those who are to be married, or are full of hope, fancy they see visions of their future partners hurrying after them; while they who are to live and die old maids are not very sanguine of obtaining their errand, seeing nothing at all.

As an appropriate supplement to this, we may conclude with the custom of

*Throwing the Stocking*. — An odd sort of love divination, on the first evening of a wedding. After the bride has retired, and while she is undressing, she delivers one of her stockings to a female attendant, who throws it at random among the company assembled on this occasion. The person on whom it happens to alight will, it is supposed, be the next to enter into the blessed state of matrimony. Another and more curious, though perhaps obsolete, mode was for the guests invited to repair to the bridal chamber, where it was customary for the happy pair to sit up in bed, in full dress, exclusive of their shoes and stockings. One of the bridesmaids then took the bridegroom's stocking, and, standing at the bottom of the bed, with her back towards it, threw the stocking with the left hand over the right shoulder, aiming at the face of

the bridegroom. This was done by all the females in rotation. When any of them were so fortunate as to hit the object, it was a sign that they were soon to be married. The bride's stocking was thrown by young men at the bride in like manner; from which a similar prognostic was taken.

Under the head of *May*, Brackett complains that the ancient observances on the first day of that month have given place to others unfitted for poverty and innocence. But, in fact, the doings which formerly took place on that day were equally to be deprecated; for, if we are to credit Strutt, not one-third of the maidens who indulged in May-day amusements returned to their homes as virtuous as they went. Nevertheless, we agree with him in believing that if such sports as were in vogue on the First of May could be introduced again with success, much good would result. But the charm of habit and early use would be wanting; and therefore it is we say, never exchange or put by any old custom amusing and harmless. To use the words of Sir Walter Scott, "we are not made of wood or stone; and the things which connect themselves with our hearts and habits cannot, like bark or lichen, be sent away without our missing them."

We may observe, that many of the words in Brackett are to be found in other and previous writers; but this is necessarily the case with all works of that nature, although it often renders continual reference to several books necessary to establish fully the explanation of a single word. A general collection would, of course, be more useful to the philological student; while the North-countryman, or one interested especially in northern dialects, cannot have a better guide than the work before us. Mr. Halliwell's larger undertaking, which we are glad to see nearly completed, will, we are inclined to think, amply supply its intended place of a general glossary, to which Brackett's and others will form useful and valuable adjuncts in the study of those dialects to which they especially refer.

#### WISDOM OF WISE SAWS.

*The Cairn: a Gathering of Precious Stones from Many Hands.* Pp. 254. London, G. Bell.

A COLLECTION of many hundred gleanings from eminent authors, with original thoughts and observations by the compiler, "A Soldier's Daughter," already favourably known to the literary world. It is a nice little square volume to lay upon your table and take up at any leisure moment and dip into with advantage. We exhibit, in proof, a few of its fragments:

*The Essex Ring.* — Lines written by Buchanan, in the year 1561, and sent by Mary Queen of Scotland, with a diamond ring, to Elizabeth Queen of England:

This gem, behold, the emblem of my heart,  
From whence my cousin's image never shall part;  
Clear in its lustre, spotless does it shine;  
As clear, as spotless is this heart of mine.

What though the stone a greater hardness wears,  
Superior firmness still the figure bears.

This is the same ring so celebrated afterwards as that given by Queen Elizabeth to the Earl of Essex, and intrusted with a prayer, for his life by that unfortunate nobleman to the Countess of Nottingham, who perfidiously concealed her mission till the solemnity of a death-bed influenced her to disclose the circumstance to the queen. The ring is now in the possession of the descendant of Sir Thomas Warner, to whom it was given by King James I.

*Flaccus's History of Madagascar* contains the following sublime prayer, said to be used by the people we call savages: "O Eternal, have mercy upon me, because I am passing away. O Infinite, because I am weak. O Sovereign of life, because I draw nigh to the grave. O Omnipotent, because I am in darkness. O All-bounteous, because I am poor. O All-sufficient, because I am nothing."

*Mellon of obtaining the figure of a Plant.* — A piece of paper is to be rubbed over with powdered

dragon's blood, in the manner practised by the grave, and then the small branch or leaf of which the design is required is to be laid upon it. By means of slight friction it soon takes up a quantity of the powder, and being then laid upon moistened paper, an impression is taken in the manner practised for lithography without a machine.

*Serenades.* — It has been wittily said of the cellians, that no person could pass for a man of gallantry who had not got a cold, and was never to succeed with his mistress unless he spoke love in a hoarse voice. This arose from the custom of serenading the object of preference during the hours of the night, by the execution of vocal and instrumental music under their balconies. The Sicilians are a nation of poets; and the lover cannot celebrate his mistress's charms in verse would be thought unworthy of her attention.

*To revive a fading flower.* — Cut the stalk, and hold it a few moments in the flame of the candle, and then set the flower again in the cold water when it will recover its strength almost immediately after this violent assistance, and blossom immediately.

*Delights of Sea Bathing as usually the custom.* — A chilly early rising with a walk to the beach before the day is aired, a tormentor in the shape of rough sailor, or fat fisherwoman, to plunge you remorselessly beneath a horrid wave, whence you issue blinded, deafened, and stifled, and incomparably colder and crosser than you went in. Why not, when the day is at the hottest, and leisurely in like a water-nymph, bathe head and face, nestle gradually beneath the rippling wave, and dabble with their smooth resistance for twenty minutes at least, emerging with limbs pliant and strengthened?

*Tobacco.* — In the archives of the Society of Antiquaries, amongst other curious documents, an alchouse license, granted by six Justices of the peace in Kent, in which the innkeeper is thus enjoined: "Item, You shall not utter, nor suffer to be uttered, drunke, or taken, any tobacco within your house, cellar, or other place thereunto belonging." This is dated in the time of James I.

*The Spider.* — It is an oriental idea that the spider draws its venom from the rose; and that is that too often from the sweetest sources come the blight of happiness and human affections.

*Sir Sidney Smith.* — Qui a peur du mal a déjà le mal de la peur. Qui espère le bien a déjà le bien de l'espérance.

The above lines were written on the window of his prison by Sir Sidney Smith, the day of his escape from the Temple; the hand of the hero of Acre threw them on the Cairn.

*The MSS.* — My friend, I've been robbed. How I pity your grief! All my manuscripts gone! How I pity the thief!

*An Opera.* — The first composer who tried his hand at setting an opera to music was Francesco Biamino, an Italian artist; and the piece to which he lent the charm of a melodious accompaniment was the *Conversion of St. Paul*, which was brought out at Rome in 1460.

*Seandal.* — Believe not each whispering word. As most weak persons do, but still believe that story false which ought not to be true.

*Daguerreotype.* — A woman's heart is the only true plate for a man's likeness. An instant gives the impression, and an age of sorrow and change cannot efface it.

*To change the colour of a Rose.* — Place a fresh gathered rose in water as far as the stem will allow, then powder it over with fine rappee snuff, being careful not to load it too much — in about three hours, on shaking off the snuff, it will have become a green rose.

These will show of what variety of stones the Cairn is composed.



## MUSICAL GOSSIP.

*Musings of a Musician: a Series of Popular Sketches illustrative of Musical Matters, &c.* By H. C. Lunn, Associate of the R.A.M. Pp. 205. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

A SKETCHY volume of the slightest possible order, in which the writer quizzes many musical and pseudo-musical matters pertinent to London theatres, concert-rooms, and society. He recommends the establishment of a Grand National English Opera, to rescue us from the absurdities with which we are beset, and form a School of Music, as in Italy, Germany, and France. As a sample of his manner and style we copy part of the paper (one of nearly forty) on Modern Operatic Poets:

"The libretto of an opera is now usually purchased instead of a jest-book; it is something to laugh over between the acts—a refreshing relaxation from the opera at night, and a mirthful companion for the breakfast-table in the morning. It seldom occurs that there is really one line of poetry throughout the entire composition; and if the author do not therefore charm you by the amount of his intellect, he will at least astonish you by the extent of his impudence." The plot of the modern "grand opera" seldom perplexes the audience, as scarcely any body pays the least attention to it. It is an understood thing that the principal characters are to be surrounded by difficulties which must prevent the happy union of the two lovers, until they have sung out all their music; but how these difficulties arise, few persons ever take the trouble to inquire. This is a great point gained by the author of the libretto, as by taking care that the audience shall never feel the slightest interest in any one of his characters, he is enabled to put them into dungeons, take them out again, bring them on in boats, or crown them as kings or queens of any place he pleases, without the slightest fear of being questioned about the matter at all. As there are all fine dramatic situations, too, he has several good opportunities of introducing his usual bits about the "dungeon's glooms," the "ocean wave," and other cut and dried specimens of modern versification. The vocalists in these compositions, by their invariable custom of singing the notes of the composer, and disguising the words of the poet, have therefore studied the best manner of fully carrying out the intentions of both; and to this fact is, no doubt, to be attributed the gradual rise of the school of operatic singers. As so little depends upon the merits of the libretto, and so much upon the merits of the music, it is also usual to attempt some "extraordinary effects" in the scenic department, in order to lighten the task of the composer, who would otherwise be unable to get ready his three long acts of music in six weeks or two months. Thus by the aid of a great deal of brass, a march may be contrived to last about twenty minutes, and you may throw dust into the eyes of the audience, whilst you drown them with a mass of sound—the wagnerian, in the meantime, taking the place of the vocalists, and the machinist sharing the honours with the composer. To bolster up the production, too, by every possible means, the doors should be opened a quarter of an hour earlier, the box-office remain open an hour later, and (if it be not a backward spring, and flowers too expensive) wreaths should be got ready for the principal vocalists at the fall of the curtain. By these few observations, it will be seen how easy it is to obtain a reputation as a libretto writer. It is only necessary that the composer of the music and the author of the words should be occasionally together, and, by a little cutting and contriving, a very superior article may be turned out of hand. Should any aspiring young man at this moment seriously turn his attention to this line of business, let him go to the music-sellers the morning after the production of an opera, and read the published list of pieces contained in it: the plot will be at once before him, and—they are all alike. For instance:

## THE NEW GRAND OPERA OF THE BANDIT CHIEF, Now performing with the most brilliant success at the Theatre Royal.

Chorus. Fill the cup with rosy wine!  
Air. Farewell, my mother dear.  
Duet. When we plough the ocean main.  
Chorus. Ruthless tyrant, stay thy hand!  
Trio. Oh horror!  
Ballad. She's gone, and I'm alone!  
Buffo song. The girls so fussy and so wary me.  
Canone. Fly in pursuit!  
and  
Grand Finale.

ACT II.  
Air. Ah me, though doomed from thee to sever.  
Duet. Away! I defy thee.  
Recitative. I was not always thus.  
and  
Air. When I was a rosy child.  
Trio. This is the spot.  
Chorus. His blood be upon him!  
Recitative. Hark, what noise steals on mine ear?  
and  
Air. Oft, when the sky is cloudy.  
Duet. Do I clasp that form once more?  
Finale. Boundless joy now reigns supreme.

Here is a very nice little plot, which, having the advantage of extreme elasticity, may be stretched to the greatest conceivable extent, or compressed into the smallest possible compass, without the slightest detriment to the story.

"Music is now progressing rapidly, and there is every indication of first-rate genius most unceremoniously stepping into the places so long occupied by the fashionably insipid class of which I have been speaking. When this occurs in the musical department, there can be little doubt that the poetry of our operas will, for the sake of experiment, be written by a poet; and, if the experiment should succeed, the days of our mere versifiers are numbered. Let me, therefore, strongly recommend all those who have adopted this mode of life not to rely too securely upon the continuance of patronage, but to look out for some honest and profitable employment, to protect them from the dangerous inroads of the true poets, who, by pouring their insidious verses into the public ear, may succeed in exposing the shallow pretensions of the would-be authors, and eventually in destroying their hopes and prospects for ever."

## DIFFICULTIES OF INFANTILE TUITION.

*Morals of Manners; or, Hints for our Young People.* By Miss Sedgwick. Pp. 63. London, Wiley and Putnam.

THE writer is an American preceptress of children in the line of little books for their guidance, a United States Mrs. Trimmer; and her advice about gentle and good manners has many proper and useful points about it. But we have rarely to notice productions of this class in any country, without having to repeat our caution as to the great care that must be taken in them not to countervail the right by something that is wrong. Now, for instance, here is a lesson upon order at family meals: "In one family half the members will sit down before the others have appeared. William comes in and says, 'John, you've got my place.' 'Well, what if I have? you can go *other side*.' 'No, I won't. Mother, shan't John give me my place?' 'Hold your tongues, both of you, cries the mother, 'or you shan't have no place at all.' The 'other side' of Master John may be excused; but the bad grammar of the Ma is a sore drawback on the moral of her authoritative dictum. And the peroration offers another odd specimen. "If you make a good use of the mind God has given you, be it more or less, if you are honest and true, and have a kind disposition and good manners, you may be lawyer, or doctor, or clergyman, you may be farmer or mechanic, you may be a common labourer, or a man or woman of service, you may be rich or poor, and you will be respectable;" if the converse, "if you may be President of the United States, you may be the wealthiest man or woman in town or country, but you will not be worthy of respect." The last three words are in the italics of the writer, and only try to point a lame

and impotent conclusion, independent of the confusion of the sexes in the may-be's.

Need we reiterate that too much pains cannot be taken with books for children?

*The Cookmaid's Guide to Cookery made easy.* By a Lady. Pp. 173. Dean and Co.

MEN and women are cooking animals—boiling, roasting, broiling, stewing, frying, toasting, simmering, baking, hashing, pickling, jugging, trussing, saucing, stuffing creatures. Witness the number of cookery-books we have of late had to pass under review, treating the subject with all the learning and science of which it is susceptible. Talk of the march of intellect, the schoolmaster being abroad, new systems of education, and other trifling matters connected with the progress of the human species; we look upon the prevalence of works upon the best method of preparing food, setting it before mankind, and provoking appetite, to be a sign of the times far more important and gratifying than all the rest put together. For what signifies intellect without provender—what schooling without plenty of provision, and what the world without appetite, and appetite that can be appeased, and pleased, and entirely satisfied? Descending from the high spheres of Francatelli, Soyer, and other egregious masters, we come here to the maids, for whom this little volume is compounded as a guide. It possesses, of course, plain and useful directions for good plain living; not always given in the most correct orthography, nor highest literary style, but fairly enough adapted to the kitchen capacity, and likely enough, if attended to, to improve the dinner services of worthy people belonging to the middle classes and not to the Corporation of the city of London.

*The Art of Elocution, from the simple Articulation of Elemental Sounds, to the highest Tone of Expression attainable by the Human Voice.* By G. Vandenhoff. New York and London, Wiley and Putnam.

AN enlarged edition of a previous publication entitled *A plain System of Elocution*, and apparently a work of much comprehensiveness and acute observation on the powers of language as modified by the human voice. We do not know what Mr. Vandenhoff means by the highest attainable tone, or how high they have got in America; but we lately heard a splendid specimen of what can be achieved by an education at Eton, with access to the railroad at Slough. A very fine lad, accomplished there, gave the scream of the railroad whistle so naturally and forcibly that the train was started by the engineer mistaking it for the real signal; and as it happened that the luggage-van was not shut up, a lamp at the station was smashed all to pieces by the movement. Let Jonathan go ahead of that if he can!

*Schiller's Thirty Years' War.* From the German, by the Rev. A. J. W. Morrison, M.A.

THE last issue of Bohn's Standard Library is well worthy of the series to which it belongs: a volume of stirring historical interest, whether it relates to the war, or to the confederacy of the Gueux and revolt of the Netherlands.

*An Ecclesiastical Biography, containing the Lives of Ancient Fathers and Modern Divines.* By W. F. Hook, D.D. Vol. II. Pp. 697. London, Rivington; Oxford, Parker; Cambridge, Deighton; Leeds, Harrison.

ELIZABETH a biographically concise church-history from early times, the talent and piety of Dr. Hook are sufficient vouchers for the value of this work. From St. Basil in the fourth century, to Atterbury, Beveridge, Baksuety, &c. in the eighteenth, the names under the letters A and B are exhausted, and the whole offers a series of religious instruction derived from the lives of a number of distinguished men, which must have a beneficial influence upon the mind of every reader.

## ARTS AND SCIENCES.

## THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION: SOUTHAMPTON.

In introducing our regular report of this Southampton meeting, we shall, as has been our custom heretofore, notice such of its historical features as have struck us during our sojourn for the busy week.

The first impression made upon us was by the obvious fact that the town and the neighbourhood had been extremely backward in coming forward to welcome their visitors. The local fund was miserably subscribed; and the nobility and gentry adjacent either shewed themselves very slightly, or did not shew at all. The Marquis of Winchester, Lord Palmerston, the Speaker, and the Dean of Winchester, attended the opening general meeting; but, except the noble secretary to attend Prince Albert at his landing on Monday, and the worthy Dean to invite several hundred members to see his admirable garden at Bishopstoke, and enjoy his hospitality, the rest was blank and void as chaos before the vestiges of creation began to appear. Throughout the mass there was quite a little of hospitable entertainment. The house-doors in the resident parts of the town were wide enough (double doors), but the houses themselves were by no means open. This contrasted badly with the enthusiasm and warm kindness with which the Association has been almost invariably received elsewhere; and had a chilling effect upon its movements. At some of the hotels, the Clarendon particularly, small dinner-parties of eighteen to nearly thirty were very comfortably provided for (some eminent members, such as Faraday, Owen, Sir James Ross, Sir P. B. Gerton, &c. residing in the house); but the grand dinner in the long room on Tuesday, at which nearly three hundred persons assisted (to use the French term, though they could neither help themselves nor each other), was such a scene of confusion, short commons, raw cookery, and non-attendance, that nobody who has not a clear idea of the entertainment seen by Robinson Crusoe when he rescued his Man Friday, can form a conception of the feed or the woe to get at it. The foolish outcry which was raised against Newcastle, especially, and Dublin, Edinburgh, &c. &c. for their animated and liberal attentions to the Association, and which was still re-echoed by some of the sponsors within that body itself, may have partially produced this benumbing reaction; but when there is an assemblage of people at any locality, where they must expend 10,000 or 15,000*l.* in a week, the least thing which, in our opinion, the place can do is to exhibit some symptoms of the *quid pro quo*. At Southampton, which did nothing for us, they did send a circular asking us to subscribe to enlarge Trinity Church, and add to the funds of their Infirmary! By the by, we understood the Mayor would entertain a party of the leading men on Wednesday at his residence, previous to the last or parting meeting. Of this announced V.P.'s, Lord Ashburton, Sir George Staunton, the Bishop of Oxford (in but active in procuring the patronage of the prince), the Earl of Yarborough, &c. &c., all of the neighbourhood were *non-interitas*; and we regret to say that the founder of the Association, Sir D. Brewster, was prevented from attending by an accident; and the Dean of Ely and Professor Sedgwick (also great losses) by ill health; the former in Germany, the latter in South Wales; Professor Lloyd, by family bereavement, &c. &c.

But the fact seems to be, that the inhabitants of Southampton, of whom it was written of old, "My good folks, with your wine you're uncommonly short. Now your Port is made free, let's make free with your Port;" have lost nothing of their ancient habits by their increased trade and prosperity. Water was the engrossing subject of nearly all their intercourse

with the *savans*. They assailed section after section, beseeching the philosophers, chemists, geologists, and mechanics to inform them what they had best do to get their artesian well to supply them (and consequently their visitors) with a sufficient quantity of the pure element; and the discussions on this subject occupied no small share of the proceedings of three days. Beyond this, the Boetian character of the people may be guessed from the disgraceful truth, that with all their wealth and numbers, it has been tried in vain to establish and support a museum or library, a literary or scientific institution in this populous and thriving place; enjoying every advantage which could contribute to the value of either, and a constant intercourse with every part of the civilised world! We should blush to see a foreigner land upon the pier; where to levy twopence on them is a much more paramount object than to shew them a room where they could refresh their minds after their voyage, and gather some information about the state of the country before they proceeded to the capital or the interior. We hope this meeting may stimulate . . . we were just going to say something, but we see from a paragraph in one of the local newspapers, that the editor, on announcing the change of the name from Mechanics' Institute to Athenæum, faintly expresses his hope that it will lose none of its present adherents, and that many who have hitherto held aloof will now be found amongst its most strenuous supporters. It projects to have ample accommodation both for lectures, class-rooms, library, and reading-rooms; and the library, it bravely boasts, already consists of upwards of 1200 volumes, on the most instructive and entertaining subjects. If all goes well (better than with former essays), there will in a year or two hence be no knowing the scientific and erudite Southampton.

The weather throughout the week was most auspicious, and Prince Albert's visit, first to hear the address on Thursday evening, and then to the Sections on Monday morning, which he skimmed between 11 o'clock and half-past 1, when Her Majesty arrived in the harbour to bear him back to the island, gave a gay impulse to the meeting.

But to speak of the really important results of this, as well as of the fifteen preceding assemblies, in spite of indifferent receptions, in spite of certain hostilities, and in spite of ridicule endeavoured to be thrown over the whole, it is impossible for any candid person to shut his eyes to the absolute good and honourable consequences, both scientific and national, which flow from such "reunions." The presence of even a half score of eminent foreigners is a beneficial link in the chain of universal concord and improvement. The opportunity afforded to bring forward and give fame to native talent, which might otherwise struggle for years in obscurity, if it ever emerged from it, is another marked recommendation, hardly intercepted by particular jealousies, to which we may, hereafter advert; for there are individuals who keep back others whilst they gather reputation from their labours; and it has been most pithily observed, that "nothing keeps back a little man so much as the shadow of a great one."

To these we may add the actual and undeniable additions to science and scientific knowledge made at these meetings, independently of the benefits which arise and spread themselves on every side through the intercommunication of many persons who are diligently working out their secrets, and can have no other opportunity for such intercourse. This advantageous influence it is impossible to trace; but when a Grove brings forward the grand discovery, which our page first announced and has since described, when an Owen lays open his vast and comprehensive views, far extending the bounds of a Cuvier and all the anatomists and osteologists of the age, and, we may say, presenting the key to unlock immense regions of yet unknown science, when a Schönbein explodes a new element for peace or for war, when an Agassiz (another of the

cherished clients of the Association) expands from the basins of Paris or London clay to the distribution of fishes over the waters of the earth,—when a Forbes, and his indefatigable dredging comrades, add a multitude of hitherto unseen specimens to our ichthyological fauna,—when these, among other contributions (let us not omit M. Forchhammer's, on seas and currents, nor Mr. Lyell's, on the geology of the Mississippi, which more decidedly than ever throws down the gauntlet to those who maintain the literality of the Mosaic history of creation, and dates the *eras* of the mud deposit in that river alone to extend over from 67,000 to 100,000 years), enter into the records of a single week, he must be bold indeed, and incredulous of truth, who ventures to speak lightly and disparagingly of the British Association.

Not that there are not many bits of fun, and vanity, and absurdity, which mingle with the mass. At these we will ourselves have a laugh,\* and it would be difficult to avoid them in any human congregation where hundreds are brought together, and the most ignorant and impudent are usually the most pressing for notoriety;† but because there are such drawbacks, to endeavour to depreciate all else is a farce almost too contemptible for grave notice. Tom Thump or Punch-like, the newspaper assailants make the giants first, and then they kill them. Professor Bell shrewdly remarked, on a separate occasion, in his address to the Ray Society, † now flourishing and doing infinite service to natural history. Swift's attacks are to be looked down by silent disregard. What would you do with a Wasp or a Nettle? To be wise, you would let them alone; and the end will buzz about and depart, and the other will decay and perish, innocently; but if you drive away at the insect, or violently pull at the weed, the chances are that you will get stung for your pains. Far better let them alone!"

This year the Sections B and D especially did excellent work; and Chemistry and Natural History will shine in the annals of the meeting, not only for the present time but for the future. The discussion on Mr. Fairbairn's paper on the Menai iron aerial tunnel was also very interesting; but we must refer to our following *Gazettes* for all the particulars deserving of preservation. That we may render at once as brief and as instructive as possible, we shall adopt the plan of classing together the communications of high interest which are allied to each other; so, for example, to keep together in one point of view Prof. E. Forbes on ichthyology, Prof. Baden Powell on light, &c. the artesian, and the Menai, agriculture, and the potato disease, &c. &c.; and fill up the building with the routine from day to day, so as to afford a complete history of the transactions. By this means we shall avoid all the verbiage of introductions, apologies, windings up, which, though quite *en règle* to single papers, form altogether an aggregate of no consequence to the intelligibility or usefulness of the entire mass.

Thus our intended mode of reporting the proceedings of the Sections will this year differ slightly from our former practice. We shall endeavour as much as possible to classify the subjects, and give in the same *Lit. Gaz.* abstracts of papers having relation to each other, or possessing the greatest novelty. We may not be able to carry out these intentions so fully as we could wish, but we are satisfied that our readers will benefit by the arrangement. The titles of papers read will appear as usual under their respective Sections and days; many, however, will thus seem unnoticed; they will either be found among the classified, they are either mere reports of no progress or incompetence, or they are not worth time and space.

\* As the attacks of the press have the least appreciable effect upon members who witness the whole, and are aware of their want of verisimilitude and foundation, so might any clever witness draw ten times more of the ridiculous out of the genuine proceedings.—*Ed. Lit. Gaz.*  
† At its annual meeting on Tuesday morning.

\* Since writing this, news has been received that his lordship died suddenly on board his yacht Kestrel, off Lisbon, on the very morning on which the Association met. He was found dead in his bed. Age 63.

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## ARTESIAN WELLS.

As we have noted, the subject of artesian wells possessed great attractions for the good folks of Southampton, and was immediately brought forward at the meeting of the British Association. In the Chemical Section, B, on Thursday, Mr. Henry Osborne read a paper connected with it, viz. on the action of water in the suburbs of Southampton on lead. He stated that the Shirley water acted so strongly in decomposing the lead in pipes, tanks, &c., as to produce serious diseases, in some cases resembling those to which coach-painters and artists who employ lead in their oil-colours are liable. The solvent principles are carbonic acid and oxygen. Mr. Osborne proposed as a remedy to substitute iron or glass for the lead-pipes which bring water to the town from Shirley, Bittern, &c. A long conversation ensued on this somewhat trite but home-coming topic.

In Section C, Geology, the same local desideratum was introduced by Prof. Ansted, who, at the request of the chairman, gave a brief account of artesian wells and the principles on which they were constructed, for the benefit of a numerous audience. In the Southampton strata a number of beds of clay overlaid a soil of gravel; and sometimes water was obtained from such soil. But if not, previous to reaching the chalk, they must go through that stratum to the permeable bed below (green sand) resting on an impermeable stratum (gault), or what was probable, to a great crevice or dislocation in the chalk itself, into which water found its way by fissures from the permeable bed. [It was afterwards stated, that the water already obtained, the boring having penetrated 480 feet into the chalk, was obtained from this source, and from percolation by the layers of flint in the chalk itself.] Dr. Neele then proceeded to read Mr. R. Keele's paper on the works and their results on Southampton common. The Southampton basin was not very different from the basins of Paris and London, and the houses have hitherto been supplied from superficial wells of from ten to twenty feet in depth, where they generally enter the London clay. Some dispute with the proprietor of the Itchen water led to the design of the artesian well, which was begun in Nov. 1845, by boring with a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch auger. In January, 1846, they had got through 80 feet of alluvial strata, 300 feet of London clay, and about 100 feet of plastic clay formation, and about 50 of chalk. He detailed the subsequent operations to the present period, under the superintendence of Mr. Joseph Hill, till they were disappointed in their expectation of the sufficient supply from the chalk, and did not try the experiment of lateral galleries, which might have produced it. On the contrary, they continued boring through the water at an enormous expense; and now the water which could be raised exceeded 2,500,000 gallons per month (about half the quantity required), and rose to within about forty feet of the surface of the well. The question therefore was, whether they should bore quite through the chalk to obtain the adequate supply, rising to a sufficient elevation, from the inferior green sand.

Prof. Phillips made some remarks on the fossils extricated from the tertiary strata similar to London and Bognor.

Prof. Hopkins spoke to the main question, and expressed a doubtful opinion as to the successful result of the works, in consequence of the great depth of the Wiltshire plateau chalk towards the Isle of Wight, which would affect the rise of any water to which they might come. There was also an enormous fault at the Isle of Wight, which might have the same effect, and prevent the water from rising to the top.

Mr. Vignolle then alluded to M. Arago's paper, to be read in Section G on the morrow; and as it throws much light on the subject, we insert it here.

Although the practice of boring in this country is carried on to a much greater extent than in any other part of Europe, it is remarkable that the

methods in use, or to speak more correctly, the principles on which borings are made, have remained almost without change, although perhaps in the whole range of mechanical appliances for useful purposes there is no art in which a decided improvement in the principle on which borings are conducted is so much wanted. The daily demand for the application of the boring-rod to search for coal and other minerals, for salt springs, for proving the nature of heavy cuttings, and especially for the discovery of artesian wells, renders any improved method of boring an extremely interesting event to the practical engineer, and indeed to the public in general. A common workman, residing at the town of Perpignan, in the south of France, is the inventor of a new method of boring, which from its simplicity, economy of time, and extreme facility of application, promises fair to be generally introduced even into this country, where the extreme prejudices of the persons with whom boring is a trade have hitherto prevented several useful improvements from being effected. A peculiar example of this prejudice was found in the impossibility of introducing the Chinese method of boring by percussion, as so successfully practised at the mines of Saarbrück, on the western frontiers of France, adjacent to the Rhine provinces of Prussia. By means of this system, boreholes from 6 to 24 inches diameter are sunk with great facility and economy, compared with the old methods, to great depths. At Saarbrück, they are chiefly used for making small shafts to ventilate the mines.

M. Arago, on the occasion of his late visit to the south of France, met with M. Fauvelle, the inventor of the new method of boring about to be described, and obtained from him an account of his system, and watched during several days the sinking of one of the borings for an artesian well, which was sunk at the rate of four English feet per hour. But it will be best to give in the first instance the translation of the abridged paper drawn up by M. Fauvelle, which was furnished by M. Arago to Mr. Vignoles, for the express purpose of being communicated to the British Association at this present meeting at Southampton, and at which the illness of M. Arago has alone prevented himself attending.

## Translation of M. Fauvelle's abridged paper.—

"In 1833 I was present at the boring of an artesian well at Rivesaltes: the water was found, and spouted up abundantly; they proceeded to the tubing, and for that purpose enlarged the bore-hole from the top downwards. I was struck by observing that it was no longer necessary to draw the boring tools to get rid of the material, and that the water rising from the bottom brought up with it, in a state of solution, all the soil which the enlarging tools detached from the sides (*parois*). I immediately observed to my friend M. Bassal, who was with me, 'This is a remarkable fact, and one very easy to imitate; if, through a hollow boring-rod, water be sent down into the bore-hole as it is sunk, the water in coming up again must bring with it all the drilled particles.' On this principle I started to establish a new method of boring.

"The apparatus is composed of a hollow boring-rod, formed of (wrought iron) tubes, screwed end to end: the lower end of the hollow rod is armed with a perforating tool, suited to the character of the strata which have to be encountered. The diameter of the tool is larger than the diameter of the tubular rod, in order to form around it an annular space through which the water and the excavated material may rise up. The upper end of the hollow rod is connected with a force pump (*fontaine*) by jointed (or flexible) tubes, which will follow the descending movement of the boring tube for an extent of some yards. This boring tube may be either worked by a rotatory movement with a turning handle (*tourne-a-gauche*), or by percussion with a jumper (*treuil-a-declat*). The frame (*chevre*) and tackle (*treuil*) for lifting, lowering, and sustaining the boring-tube offer nothing particular.

When the boring-tube is to be worked, the pump must be first put in motion. Through the interior of the tube a column of water is sent down to the bottom of the bore-holes, which water, rising in the annular space between the exterior of the hollow boring-rod and the sides of the bore-hole, creates an ascending current which carries up the triturated soil; the boring-tube is then worked like an ordinary boring-rod; and as the material is acted upon by the tool at the lower end, it is immediately carried up (to the top of the bore-hole) by the ascending current of water. It is a consequence of this operation that the cuttings being constantly carried up by the water, there is no longer any occasion to draw up the boring tube to clear them away, making a very great saving of time.

"Another very important and certainly no less advantage is that the boring tools never get clogged by the soil; they work constantly without meeting obstructions (*sans entraves*) through the strata to be penetrated, thus getting rid at once of nine-tenths of the difficulties of boring. In addition it should be mentioned, that experience has shewn there are no slips (*éboulements*) in any ground which ordinary boring rods can penetrate; that the boring tube works at 100 yards in depth with as much facility as when only 10 yards down; and that from the very circumstance of its being a hollow rod, it presents more resistance to torsion than a solid rod of equal thickness, and quite as much resistance to traction. These are the principal advantages of the new system of boring. Indeed, these advantages have been fully confirmed by the boring which I have just completed at Perpignan in St. Dominico's Square. This boring was commenced on the 1st July, and was completed on the 23d, by finding the artesian water at a depth of 170 metres (560 English feet). If from these 23 days (each of 10 hours' work) are deducted 3 Sundays and 6 lost days, there remain 14 days, or 140 hours of actual work, which is upwards one metre per hour, that is, ten times the work of an ordinary boring-rod.

"In the method I have described, it will be perceived that the water is injected through the interior of the boring-rod. Experience has taught me that when gravel or stones of some size are likely to be met with, it is better to inject the water by the bore-hole, and let it rise through the boring-tube. The additional velocity which may be thereby given to the water, and the greater accuracy of calibre of the tube, allow the free ascent of all substances which may be found at the bottom of the bore-hole, and which the former mode of working may not so readily accomplish. I have brought up by this latter way stones of 6 centimetres long and 3 thick ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  English inches). The idea of making the water remount through the interior of the boring-tube, suggests an easy mode of boring below a film (sheet, *nappe*) of flowing (*jaillissante*) water; it would be sufficient to close the orifice of the bore-hole hermetically, still, however, so as to allow the boring-tube to work, but yet so that the flowing water should be always forced down to the bottom of the bore-hole to find its way to a vent; it would thus draw up and carry away all the detritus. If in addition to the above we consider the possibility of making the hollow stem (*tige*) of the boring-rod, of wood, and of balancing it so that it would weigh no more than the water in which it has to move, the problem of boring to depths of 1000 metres (1100 yards) and upwards would appear to be solved."

This is the brief but clear narrative of the ingenious artisan, Fauvelle; and it may be interesting to mention, in the words of M. Arago, his first steps, after the original suggestion had arisen in his mind, which he described in such simple language to his friend and fellow-workman, Bassal. It appears that poor Fauvelle, from his utter want of means, was long before he could realise his own ingenious conception. He had no money to buy or make tools, and he could find no one sufficiently trusting or sufficiently bold to furnish funds. At length, after often talking over the matter with his

brother-artisans, they determined to help him. One found timber, another iron, a third hemp, and all clubbed their savings and gave their labour, and, under Fauvelle's hands and eyes, the first tackle and the first set of hollow boring rods, with proper cutting tools, were thus completed by the voluntary labours and contributions of his fellow-workmen, who had their ample reward in witnessing the complete success of the new method of boring invented by their companion, and first worked out by themselves. The private trial, made in this interesting manner, was often publicly repeated, and finally under peculiar circumstances.

In the Square of St. Dominique, at Perpignan, a boring had been carried on upon the old method, for upwards of eleven months, for the purpose of forming an artesian well, and the water had not been found. Fauvelle placed his new tube alongside the old boring tackle, and soon got down to a depth of nearly 100 yards, when an accident occurred, of what exact nature has not been described, but which would have required some days to remedy. Fauvelle decided upon abandoning the bore-hole already sunk so deep, and upon commencing a new one,—satisfied that there would thereby be a saving in time. The second bore-hole was accordingly commenced and finished, as has already been described in Fauvelle's own words; though he does not add the fact, that he found the artesian spring before those labouring on the old system, who had been nearly a year at work, while Fauvelle's operations had only extended over twenty-three days, including three Sundays, and six days lost by his accident. Indeed, the rate of sinking was equal to four English feet per hour of the time the hollow boring-rod was actually at work,—the depth of 560 English feet having been obtained in 140 working hours, for a bore-hole of about six English inches in diameter.

M. Arago, who had seen the rods of Fauvelle at work, mentions how fully they answered, and that the large powerful tools at the bottom of the hollow boring-rod cut easily through the hardest strata. He confirmed the fact of the large-sized stones and gravel coming up with the ascending current, having himself watched them. He also mentioned that such was the opinion of the people in the vicinity of Perpignan; and so much was water wanted, that orders for the sinking upwards of 200 artesian wells had been given to Fauvelle.

It is impossible to doubt that this novel and ingenious method of boring will be soon introduced into this country, and especially if combined with the Chinese or percussion system of boring, as practised with bore-holes of very large diameter at the Saarbrück mines, and at many other places on the continent.

It is not merely the saving of money and labour, which in important cases is never spared; but the paramount advantage undoubtedly is, that the question of the existence of coal, minerals, water, &c. will be so rapidly solved, and the anxiety and disappointment always attendant on the delays occasioned by the tedious processes of the old system of boring will be spared. Under any circumstances, however, it is impossible to refrain from sympathising with the simple ingenious Fauvelle, or appreciating the good feeling with which his brother-workmen came forward to assist him in making the first practical effort for demonstrating the efficacy of his new system of boring for artesian springs.

A native Member spoke of the expenditure of 20,000*l.*, and seemed rather sore at Prof. Hopkins' prediction of a possible confluence, even if they persevered in boring through the chalk. Another thought they had better have contented themselves with resorting to the adjacent rivers and streams.

A desultory conversation ensued, and the Southampton interlocutors seemed very anxious to be assured, if they laid out 10,000*l.* more whether they would obtain the 40,000*l.* gallon a day which they wanted. The President judiciously shifted

the onus of such advice from the Section, and from geologists.

To a question from Mr. Hill, Prof. Hopkins said, that the water from a similar stratum of green sand at Cambridge was slightly ferruginous, but this went off by exposure to the atmosphere, and did not interfere with its usefulness for all domestic and other purposes.

In the Section of Mechanics on Friday, after the reading of M. Arago's paper, in answer to a question from Sir J. Guest respecting the Chinese system of boring, Mr. Vignolles said, instead of boring with augers or rods, there was a heavy weight suspended by a rope and pulley, and fixed to the bottom of the weight a tool of the crown form, viz. a circular tool of iron, indented at the bottom. There was no description of rock on which he had tried it that this tool did not penetrate with facility. The prejudice of English workmen, however, had hitherto prevented its introduction in this country; but he had no doubt it would make its way, particularly if it could be combined with Fauvelle's system.

A conversation, similar to that in Section C, ensued, with no other result; and it was resolved to send a committee of geologists to examine the bore on the common.

On Monday, in Section C, Dr. Buckland again brought the work under discussion, and stated his conviction that the supply of water required would be found in the green sand below the chalk. He was going on, perhaps somewhat discursively, when called to time by the chairman, Mr. Horner, and sat down in rather a resentful mood. Mr. Vignolles appeared to think that the Southampton folks had better begin *de novo*; and again explained the method of Chinese boring on the principle of a siphon. Sir H. de la Beche, after some geological observations on the locality and the nature of the sources of water, hoped the subject would be properly investigated before more money was wasted.

Dr. Buckland, in answer to sundry queries, alluded to a paper he had published two years ago, referring to the Chinese method; and also to his remarks in the Bridgewater Treatise, ten years ago. He recommended galleries in the chalk; and described the fault or dislocation in the Southampton basin as possibly preventing the ascent of the water to a height from which the town could be supplied. He explained the difference of levels in the rise caused by the nature of the strata whence it sprung, and on this depended the solution of the Southampton undertaking.

#### LIGHT AND ITS PHENOMENA.

(The first three papers by Prof. Powell, the fourth a communication from Sir D. Brewster.)

On the bands formed by partial interception of the prismatic spectrum.—These bands, which have been the subject of so much controversy, are formed under certain conditions, indifferently, whether the retarding plate be applied at one end of the spectrum or the other. Hence the term polarity does not appear properly applicable. The existing theory requires that the intervals between the bands should enlarge as the aperture of the eye or telescope is contracted. But experimentally this is not the case. The author, however, found that with a contracted aperture the bands are always far more vivid and distinct, while they enlarge only with an enlargement in the angular extent of the spectrum. On the whole, the subject seems still involved in some obscurity, though the undulatory investigation of it is founded upon the strict grounds of that theory, and involves no arbitrary suppositions of such a kind as can be termed "untenable," or "inadmissible," unless the whole theory be rejected.

We mention this because it was ten times more abrupt than the cause of the silly alleged archaeological offence at Gloucester; but here the parties had good sense, and in a few minutes Dr. B. was invited to give, and gave, information at the request of the chairman.

Elliptic polarisation has been observed in the reflection of light previously plane-polarised from various substances besides those of metals, to which the property was at first supposed to be confined. The author on former occasions enumerated many such cases in which he had observed it; to these he now added the instances of prussian blue, and the remarkably earthy meteorite which fell at the Cape of Good Hope in 1839. A number of other cases have been investigated by Mr. Dale, of Balliol College, Oxford, which are wholly non-metallic, but all of high refractive power, which condition appears to be the essential distinction.

Dr. Lloyd investigated a theory grounded on the principle of undulations, according to which, when polarised light is reflected from a thin plate of any substance, it ought to become elliptically polarised. And, according to other received views, all elliptic polarisation implies the action of a thin superficial lamina of the substance. But in the cases now considered, there appear exceptions to both these conclusions. Many cases of this film give no ellipticity; and there are many cases of ellipticity when nothing like thin films can be supposed. Of the former kind the author instanced decomposed glass, of which one kind sometimes found, having a metallic lustre, gives elliptic polarisation; another, equally sedescent but without that lustre, gives none. Of the latter class are most of the substances observed by Mr. Dale, such as sulphur, realgar, &c., and particularly China ink, in which the author had originally found elliptic polarisation when rubbed in a flat on a plate, but in which he has now found the same property when in the solid mass, though it is restricted to those specimens which are of the purest description.

On attempts to explain the projection of a star in the moon.—The author adverted to the singular discrepancies between the statements of different observers with respect to the facts; it being well known that the same occultation has been seen differently in this respect by different observers; and different occultations by the same observer; and it has even been thought that the phenomenon might be seen or not, according as the eye was fixed on the star or the moon. Under these circumstances any general explanation must be premature; yet a step may be gained which may eventually prove of use, if we assign an experimental result which can be regarded as of an analogous kind. Such a fact the author has observed by forming an artificial star by the sun's rays reflected from a small globe of mercury; and on completely eclipsing the image by a small opaque screen, and viewing it through a telescope at a considerable distance, a small patch of light was seen distinctly upon the screen. The author was led to this experiment in connexion with one of Newton's related in the third book of the Optics, which has always presented some difficulty, but which the author has succeeded in reproducing in a different way, and which refers to a peculiar effect analogous to and connected with diffraction, yet distinct from it in the strict sense of the term.

On a new property of light.—The chrysoamite of potash, which crystallises in very small flat rhombic plates, has the metallic lustre of gold, whence it derives its name of "golden" fund. When the sun's light is transmitted through the rhombic plates it has a reddish yellow colour, and is wholly polarised in one plane. When the crystals are pressed with the blade of a knife on a piece of glass they can be spread out like an amalgam. The light transmitted through the thinnest films thus produced consists of two oppositely polarised pencils; the one of a bright carmine red, and the other of a pale yellow colour. With thicker films, the two pencils approach to two equally bright carmine red pencils. It is to the reflected light, however, and its new properties, that I wish to direct the attention of the Section. Common



light, reflected at a perpendicular incidence from the surfaces of the crystals, or of the films, has the colour of virgin gold. It grows less and less yellow as the incidence increases, till it becomes of a pale bluish white colour at very great incidences. The compound pencil, thus reflected and coloured, consists of two oppositely polarised pencils: one polarised in the plane of reflection, and of a pale bluish white colour at all incidences; and the other polarised perpendicular to the plane of reflection, and of a golden yellow colour at small incidences, passing successively into a deeper yellow, greenish yellow, green, greenish blue, blue, and light pink, as the angle of incidence increases. This very remarkable property, which I have discovered also in some other crystals, is not caused by any film of oxide formed upon the natural surface of the crystal, nor is it the result of any change produced upon the surface by external causes. It is exhibited, under the usual modifications, if the surface of the chrysanmate is in optical contact with liquids and with glass; and when the crystal is in the act of being dissolved, or when a fresh surface is exposed, by mechanical means, the superficial action of the crystal upon light is in both cases the same. When the chrysanmate is re-crystallised from an aqueous solution, it appears in tufts of a bright red colour, the golden reflection being overpowered by the transmitted light; but when these tufts are spread into a film by pressure, the golden yellow colour reappears. When the crystals of chrysanmate are heated with a spirit-lamp, or above a gas burner, they explode with a flame and smoke like gunpowder; and, by continuing the heat, the residue melts, and a cross of colourless amorphous crystals is left. I have found the same explosive property in the alioetate of

**THE NEW METAL, PELOPIUM.**  
In a former paper, Prof. Rose showed that there were two acids, in the "tantalic" of Bodenmais, in Bavaria, one of which differed so decidedly from all known metallic oxides that he did not hesitate to pronounce it the oxide of a new metal, which he named *pelopium*. But he only then noticed the second acid accompanying the niobic as resembling the tantalic acid of the Finland tantalites. After considerable difficulty, Prof. Rose succeeded in isolating this second acid, which he has named *pelopic acid*, and the metal *pelopium*, from Pelopos, the son of Tanталus, and the brother of Niobe; to point out by this name not only its simultaneous occurrence with the oxide of niobium, but at the same time more particularly the very great resemblance between the pelopic acid and the tantalic acid of the Finland tantalites. The similarity, indeed, is more perfect than exists between the combinations of any other two simple metals. The combinations of niobium are, on the contrary, very different from those of pelopium or tantalum. In its properties pelopic acid is intermediate between tantalic and niobic acids, just as strontia between baryta and lime; and in the same way as many properties of strontia may be explained, by assuming it to be a mixture of the two last named, so may the properties of pelopic acid be determined (as a mixture) by admitting it to be a mixture of a large proportion of tantalic acid with a small quantity of niobic acid. Similarly, also, to bromine, which on its discovery was considered to be a combination of chlorine with iodine, Prof. Rose was long of opinion that pelopic acid was nothing more than tantalic acid still contaminated by a certain quantity of niobic acid, which he had not succeeded in separating. It was only by an uninterrupted investigation for several years that he became convinced of the distinctness of pelopic acid. The paper described the most important properties by which the compounds of tantalum differ from the corresponding compounds of pelopium, and enumerated those of niobium. The distinctness of the three acids is conveyed in the following brief statement:—Tantalic acid yields before the blow-pipe colourless pearls with the fluxes, even in

the inner flame; pelopic acid gives with the microcosmic salt in the outer flame a colourless, in the inner one a brown, pearl; niobic acid colours the microcosmic salt in the inner flame a beautiful blue;—the pearl can be easily blown colourless in the outer flame.

To ascertain accurately the behaviour of these acids and their combinations is one of the most difficult tasks, as all three exhibit in many circumstances highly anomalous properties. For instance, niobic acid is readily dissolved under certain circumstances by hydrochloric acid, when eliminated from its combinations; while under not very dissimilar circumstances it is almost entirely precipitated by it; this is owing to the acid assuming different isomeric modifications. The three acids resemble in this respect silicic acid, whose behaviour towards reagents is frequently highly remarkable, and excites less surprise only from our long acquaintance with it, and our knowledge of its properties. This tendency of the three acids to assume different isomeric modifications is undoubtedly connected with the great variability which they exhibit with respect to their specific gravity. Professor Rose's experiments on this subject have led to the most unexpected results. Some time ago he drew attention to the fact, that in the artificially prepared titanic acid the specific gravity is gradually increased by long-continued ignition, till it attains that of rutile. In the same way the modifications of titanic acid which occur in nature, anatase and brookite, may be converted by continued ignition into rutile. He thought that the publication of these facts would have induced chemists to examine the specific gravity of other oxides at different temperatures, since these changes have an important influence on the atomic volume. This, however, has not happened, with the exception of a very interesting investigation by Count Schafgotsch on the specific gravity of silicic acid, in which he has shewn that opal, heated to redness, has so low a specific gravity, that it floats on oil of vitriol, and that by exposure to a stronger red heat, it equals that of chemically prepared silicic acid (2.2) which, however, is still considerably lighter than that of quartz or rock crystal (2.6). The changes which the three metallic acids under consideration experience by exposure to red heat are far more remarkable. When the hydrate of pelopic acid is deprived of its water by a gentle red heat over a spirit-lamp, just sufficient to produce the phenomenon of incandescence, its specific gravity is considerably increased when the acid is now exposed to a strong red heat in a charcoal fire. On examining the ignited acid under the microscope, we find that it consists, for the greater part, of amorphous granules, in which some small crystals are perceptible. The ignited acid was then exposed to the most intense, and at the same time continuous, heat that a platinum crucible is capable of supporting; that of the porcelain furnace of the royal manufactory at Berlin. The acid was not melted by it, but was converted into a coarse sandy powder, which, examined under the microscope, consisted of large perfect crystals. The specific gravity of the acid, however, was thereby considerably diminished: curious enough, it had become still lighter than the acid, after the water, as hydrate, had been expelled by exposure to a gentle heat over a spirit-lamp. On repeating this experiment, the specific gravity of the crystallised acid which had been ignited in the porcelain furnace was found to be constant; whilst by no other temperature could the acid be obtained of a constant specific gravity. These experiments are in so far remarkable, as they prove precisely the contrary of what has hitherto been generally admitted.—Crystalline bodies—such as vesuvian, epidote, and garnet—fuse at a high temperature, and become amorphous, but of lighter specific gravity. It is evident that what applies to these substances, cannot be advanced as a general law. Niobic acid has a far lighter specific gravity than pelopic acid. It exhibits the same behaviour.

The acid, exposed to the temperature of the porcelain furnace, appears under the microscope perfectly crystalline. Tantalic acid behaves very differently, in this respect, to the other acids. It is the heaviest of all, and increases, by being heated to redness in a charcoal fire, considerably in specific gravity—from 7.0 or 7.1 to 8.2. By the heat of the porcelain furnace it is likewise converted into a coarse powder, which, however, does not exhibit a distinctly crystalline appearance under the microscope. Its specific gravity is thereby only slightly lessened. In all these experiments no alteration was perceptible in the absolute weight.

## THURSDAY.

**SECTION A.—(Mathematical and Physical Science.)**  
1. Erman (Prof.), report on Gauss's magnetic constants.  
2. Powell (Prof.) on the bands formed by partial intercession of the prismatic spectrum.  
3. Laming (H.) on the constitution and forces of the molecules of matter.  
4. Towler (G.) on magnetic causation and intrinsic forces.

Prof. Powell's paper has been given under a separate head.

3. Mr. Laming stated his theory of the constitution of matter to be an assemblage of inductions—a system of causation springing from facts, and not a result of accident, or of a seeking for causes to explain preconceived notions. He considers matter to consist of three sorts of spherical atoms: basic (inert matter), calorific, and electric; and each molecule of matter to be constituted of a basic atom, surrounded by electric atoms, and each electric atom by calorific atoms. The number of electric atoms is invariable, but sometimes the "electrosphere" is made up by complementary atoms, which play an important part in the theory, for without them Mr. Laming conceives we should not be able to excite electrical action at all. Every phenomenon of electricity he attributes to attractions, denying the existence of what is termed repulsive force. In short, the theory demands an essential change in all our views in electricity, chemistry, &c. It has been the study of ten years, and the author appears fully convinced of its truth. His communication contained between forty and fifty propositions, with the corresponding facts of each,—a series of propositions affecting the constitution of the universe, embracing such a variety of subjects as rendered it impossible to collect the author's comprehensive views. In this we are borne out by a confession, to the same effect, of Sir J. Herschel. "But one striking result may afford an idea of the theory—namely, the ponderability of electricity." "Electricity (Mr. Laming asserts) is the only body that possesses weight." "Everything owes its weight to electricity." This he states he has experimentally proved, by communicating to a cylinder, nicely balanced and protected from foreign influence, different quantities of electricity. The cylinder with a plus-charge descends; or has a tendency to descend; with a minus-charge it ascends. The truth of this experiment, Mr. Laming said, was admitted by the Academy of Sciences at Paris seven years ago, but no report upon the subject was ever made.

The electricians present were sceptical; but the eminent one, Mr. Grassiot, said that if Mr. Laming could shew by experiment that electricity possessed weight, he would at once and unhesitatingly adopt the new views. Mr. Laming said that he could; that the theory had suggested the experiment, and that the experiment warranted the theory.

Sir John Herschel warned the Section against dependence upon a single experiment. This may be interpreted otherwise than as the author explained it; and farther, what do we understand by ponderability?—the weight of the electricity?—the weight of the matter?—the weight of the apparatus?—the weight of the atmosphere?—the weight of the earth?—the weight of the sun?—the weight of the universe?

1. Osborn (H.) on the action of water in the suburbs of Southampton on lead. 2. West (W.) on the use of staking with the results of analyses, the nature of the methods employed. 3. Hunt (R.) on the repetition of the sabbath, notices of the progress of experiments on the influence of light on the growth of plants.

1. Mr. Osborne is sufficiently noticed under the head of Artesian Wells.

2. Mr. West's paper, besides generally enforcing the advantageous truth indicated by its title, contended that such statements need not be lengthy, whilst they were absolutely necessary to furnish accurate data, and thus prevent or soften controversial opinions.

3. Mr. Hunt's observations went to corroborate the fact that in the sun's rays there is a principle distinct from luminousness, which in photographic pictures effected the drawing, and not the light. He mentioned, in proof, the fact that he had succeeded in obtaining a photographic picture in a dark box, from which the luminous rays were excluded. Experiments made by photographers had shown that the sun's light at different times of the day produced different effects. Connected with the same subject he stated that, during the late excessively hot weather of the month of July, photographers had found a great difficulty in obtaining portraits.

4. Mr. Hunt in these Notices explained the reasons why he had been obliged to resort to this method of treating the subject instead of bringing forward his complete report. Some of the experiments, with a view of determining the quantity of solid matter in plants grown under different circumstances, had been destroyed by the late hailstorm, and he was consequently obliged to recommence such of his labours, and thought it best to postpone results for another year rather than produce an imperfect document. He, however, under the title of "Notices," stated a few of the leading facts which had been determined; observing the same order as in former experiments, and confirming all that he had published six years ago. The germination of seeds was peculiarly due to the influence of the actinic or chemical rays; and if these were completely isolated, whilst the luminous rays are permitted to act upon the soil in which the seeds are planted, no germination will take place. This influence is exerted and most necessary up to the point at which the first leaves begin to form, when the luminous rays are rendered necessary to effect the formation of woody fibre. When the plant has arrived at its maturity, a new agency, the calorific, becomes more decidedly necessary to develop the reproductive functions; and then again the chemical rays combined with the calorific become more active than the luminous rays. In spring the chemical influences are in the greatest force. With the advance of the sun the luminous come into play; and in the autumn the calorific rays are most required, with diminished powers of light.

Mr. Hunt thinks he has also detected some curious influences due to dissimilar rays, which in their action exhibit great inconsistency of effect: these are the parathermic rays of Sir J. Herschel, which are so subdued by the influences of the more refrangible rays during the early spring and summer months, that they can scarcely produce any effect upon dead vegetable colouring matter, unless their action is assisted by the use of some decomposing agent, such as sulphuric acid. They increase in power towards autumn; and to them we owe the browning of the leaf. Plants growing in the dark do not form chlorophyll, which colouring is due to the luminous and chemical rays. Boxes of cress have been grown in the dark, and then brought under the influence of a large spectrum, formed by a water-prism. Dr. Gardner is mistaken in supposing that the plants under those circumstances exhibit a lateral movement bending towards the yellow ray. Under the influence of the red rays they bend from the light, but along the line of the ray; and those exposed to the most refrangible rays, turn towards the light, but still in the line of the ray. Now the plants which first become green by careful treatment in this way are those which are exposed to the rays situated between the mean green ray and the extreme blue. The action is eventually continued below the yellow ray and to

the edge of the most refrangible violet. There is not any change effected beyond the visible spectrum, notwithstanding the abundance of dark chemical rays; and the change is slow where there is really the largest amount of light. Mr. H. therefore concludes, that the luminous rays are essential to the process, producing the decomposition of the carbonic acid, and the separation of the required carbon, which is afterwards, in all probability, combined with the hydrogen, under the influence of purely chemical force as exerted by the chemical rays.

#### SECTION C.—(Geology and Physical Geography.)

1. Keele (R.) on the artesian well on the Southampton Common.

2. Goepfert (Prof., of Breslau, communicated by Sir R. I. Murchison) on the origin of the coal in the Silesian coal-fields.

3. Ormerod (G. W.) on the Northwich salt-field.

1. Mr. Keele and the discussion on his paper are reported under the head of Artesian Wells.

2. The president read Mr. Goepfert's paper, which attributed this coal-field to a vegetable deposit *in situ*, similar to our peat-mosses. Prof. Phillips noticed that by examining coal-ashes with the microscope, traces of various plants of which the coal was composed might be discovered.

3. Mr. Ormerod gave an interesting account of the Northwich salt-field, illustrated by diagrams; and Mr. W. Sharp, who had a communication on the Cheshire salt-mines, withdrew it, in consequence of the ample information given by his predecessor.

#### SECTION D.—(Zoology and Botany.)

1. Hogg (J.), additions to a synopsis of the classification of the genera of British birds.

2. Blackwall (J.), list of periodical birds at Llanrwst.

3. King (W.), notice of new species of animals found on the coast of Northumberland.

4. Richardson (Sir J.) on an insect found imbedded in artificial concrete.

5. Owen (Prof.) on the homologies of the bones called collectively "temporal," in human anatomy.

6. Alder (J.) on new British nudibranchiate mollusca.

7. Forbes (Prof. E.) on the pulmo-grade medusae of the British seas, with notices of the medusae at present abundant in Southampton water.

1. This paper was entirely technical, and as such not altogether adapted to a meeting like the present, because it was of too abstruse a nature for the general hearer, and for those who like to discuss the matters brought before them. "The question of the classification of birds is one of very great importance," as the president, Sir John Richardson, well observed; and since the author has made some considerable modifications in the arrangement of birds, the present paper will, it is hoped, do much towards introducing a better and more natural system than has hitherto been adopted in Britain. One of the principal alterations here named by him was his discontinuance of subgenera, which have now become so common in the arrangements of our British systematists; and these he rejected as being extremely prejudicial to science, and tending to do away with the utility of the Linnean nomenclature. The author only gave very briefly his views of the classification of the British genera; and in fact they constitute additions to a paper on a portion of British ornithology, which he communicated at the meeting of the Association at York, two years ago. Those naturalists who desire to examine the explanations of the different divisions of the classification proposed, may, as the author stated, consult his recent memoir, published by Prof. Jameson in the *Edin. New Phil. Journal* for July last.

2. Raised a discussion on the arrival and departure of birds, but led to no practical result.

3. Mr. King described nearly fifty new shells and invertebrate forms got by dredging on the coast between the Tweed and Tees.

4. A curiosity.

5 and 7. In connected forms hereafter.

6. A useful contribution to generalisation.

#### SECTION E.—(Physiology.)

1. Fowler (Dr.) on sensation in relation to the higher mental processes.

2. Searle (Dr.) on the circulation of the blood through the liver.

Two medical communications of much value, but the latter in particular unsuited to our column. In Ethnology sub-section the Comanche and Texas Indians and the vocabulary of the latter were the subjects of discussion.

#### SECTION F.—(Statistics.)

1. Allison (Dr.) on the medical relief of the poor of Scotland under the old poor-law.

2. Valpy (Mr.) on the mining statistics of Belgium.

Very long, and full of minute statistical information. For reasons we have frequently assigned this Section will be very briefly reported, except where an important paper addressed to and fully developing its subject may have been read. In general, though valuable data for future arrangement and comparison with masses of similar intelligence, we consider these disjuncta membra to be incapable of abstract or analysis for any useful end. A notice of Belgian mines and mining industry, by Mr. R. Valpy, was read.

#### FRIDAY.

#### SECTION A.—(Mathematical and Physical Science.)

1. Challis (Prof.), provisional report on the present state of astronomy.

2. Stokes (G. G.), report on recent researches in hydrodynamics.

3. Brewster (Sir D.) on a new property of light as exhibited in the action of chrysomelids of potash on common and polarised light.

4. Powell (Prof.) on elliptic polarisation.

5. Dale (Mr.) on elliptic polarisation;—6. on the direction of vibrations.

7. Broun (J. A.) on magnetic observations made at Sir T. M. Brisbane's Observatory, Makerston.

8. Hopkins (Mr.) on the relations of the semidiurnal movements of the barometer to daily sea and land breezes.

We feel it necessary to remove from the category of no progress, or of incompleteness, which might be inferred from passing it without notice, the able report of Mr. Stokes. It is one of those which support the high character, and mark the value of the British Association. It brings up the science of hydrodynamics to the present time, and will be, in the *Transactions* of 1846, the starting-point for future investigators. Few but members know the great worth of the contents of the yearly volumes; and hence, in some measure, the ignorance and mistaken views of the usefulness of the Association.

3 and 4 will be found reported under the head "Light and its Phenomena."

7. Mr. Broun's observations were arranged under three heads:

1. *Magnetic Declination*.—The annual diminution of westerly declination at Makerston is 5'8"; when proportional parts of this have been added to the monthly means from January 1844 till August 1846, their whole range is only 2'1", that is to say, the mean position of the magnetic needle for any month, freed from secular change, has not been above 2'1" farther west than the mean position for any other month. Mr. Broun conceives that he has found the annual period of westerly declination to consist of a minimum at the vernal and of a maximum at the autumnal equinox: the mean range being under 1'2". From the observations for 1843, Mr. Broun has concluded that there is a maximum of westerly declination when the sun and moon are in opposition, and a minimum when they are in conjunction; that there is a maximum of westerly declination when the moon has its greatest north, and also when it has its greatest south declination, minima occurring when it crosses the equator. In the diurnal period the double maximum and minimum have been found to exhibit itself in each month of the year.

In the *Transactions* of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Mr. Broun has given certain results relating to the horizontal and vertical components of the earth's magnetic force; but these results were obtained in scale divisions, corrected for temperature by his method. In order to deduce the variations of magnetic dip, and of the total magnetic force from the variations of these components, it was necessary to determine the values of the scale divisions in known units. Mr. Broun had previ-

ously shewn the command of the Royal Society; value of the torily dete. Introduction 1843: he bifilar ma of the sca mended b curate fo values ob results ha 11. Ma the sun a mum whos diurnal p The pr A seco

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ously shown\* the inapplicability of the method recommended by the Committee of Physics of the Royal Society of London for the balance magnetometers; he now described a method by which the value of the micrometer divisions may be satisfactorily determined; this method will be found in the Introduction to the Makerstoun Observations for 1843: he has applied the same method to the bifilar magnetometer, and has found that the value of the scale divisions obtained in the way recommended by the Committee of Physics is also inaccurate for this instrument. With the aid of the values obtained by the new method, the following results have been deduced:

II. *Magnetic Dip*.—The dip is a minimum when the sun and moon are in conjunction, and a maximum when they are in opposition. In the mean diurnal period for the year

The principal maximum occurs at	10h. 10m. A.M.
" minimum "	5h. 40m. P.M.
A secondary maximum "	2h. 0m. A.M.
" minimum "	5h. 40m. A.M.

Makerstoun mean time being always used. These periods vary to some extent throughout the year; the principal minimum occurring at 6 A.M. in winter, the two minima being nearly equal at the equinoxes and the diurnal curve being single in summer. Mr. Brown has found that there is a maximum of dip about 4½ hours before the moon's passage of the superior meridian, a minimum about 4 hour after that passage, a secondary minimum about 3 hours after it, and a secondary maximum about 8 hours after it.

III. *Total Force of the Earth's Magnetism*.—A minimum occurs when the sun and moon are in opposition, equal maxima near the quadratures, and a secondary minimum at the time of conjunction. In the mean diurnal period for the year

The principal maximum occurs at	5h. 40m. P.M.
" minimum "	2h. 10m. A.M.
A secondary maximum "	7h. 10m. A.M.
" minimum "	10h. 10m. A.M.

The periods of maxima and minima shift about two hours in the course of the year, and in summer the principal minimum occurs at 10h. 30m. A.M. The variations of force, with reference to the moon's hour angle, were found by Mr. Brown as follows:—The principal maximum occurs about two hours after the moon's passage of the inferior meridian, a secondary minimum about four hours before the passage of the superior meridian, a secondary maximum about one hour after the superior passage, and the principal minimum about 6½ hours after that passage.

Curves were exhibited illustrating these results, and also the diurnal motion of a magnetic needle freely suspended in the direction of the magnetic force; from the latter some curious results have been deduced, which will be found elsewhere; it will be enough to mention at present, that in the mean for the year, the motion from 6 A.M. till 6 P.M. is very trifling, between midnight and 6 A.M. the needle is almost stationary, nearly the whole motion occurring between 6 A.M. and 6 P.M. The north pole of the needle describes an ellipse whose major axis is at right angles to the magnetic meridian, but the direction of this axis varies throughout the year.

SECTION B.—(Chemical Science, including its application to Agriculture and the Arts.)

1. Daubeny (Dr.) on the rationale of certain practices employed in agriculture.
2. Grove (W. R.) on the decomposition of water into its constituent gases by heat.
3. Way (Prof.) on the cause of fairy rings.
4. Joule (J. P.) and Playfair (Dr. L.) on the expansion of salts.
5. Reade (Dr. J.), notices of experiments in thermoelectricity.
6. Knowles (E. R. J.) on a singular appearance in the flame of a candle.

1. Prof. Daubeny's paper referred chiefly to the use of quicklime and of gypsum as fertilisers to the

\* "Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh," vol. xvi.

land. The former of these substances he supposes to act in part, by rendering those inorganic substances which are present in the soil more soluble, or—in accordance with the views laid down by the author in a memoir which he has published in the *Philosophical Transactions* of last year—by converting the dormant constituents of the soil into active ones, or into a state in which they become immediately available. He appealed to the authority of Prof. Fuchs, confirmed by that of Mr. Prideaux, of Plymouth, as shewing, that the alkali may be extracted from granite readily by water after the rock in a powdered form has been heated, together with quicklime; and he stated, that a soil exhausted by long-continued cropping was found by himself to yield to water twice as much alkali after having been mixed with quicklime as it had done before. Hence the frequent application of lime tends to produce exhaustion in the land; not only because it supplies in itself no fresh alkali, but likewise because, by rendering that which the soil contains more soluble, it causes it to be washed away more readily by atmospheric water. Ploughing, and other mechanical methods of pulverising the soil, appear to act in the same way; and so, also, may we suppose to do the sprinkling of the soil with sulphuric acid, as is practised in some parts of the Continent. The author then alluded to the various modes of explaining the advantage attributed to gypsum, which certain leading agricultural chemists had proposed: one ascribing its virtues to the direct influence of the salt; another, to the indirect good resulting from it, owing to its property of fixing ammonia; a third, regarding its acid constituent as of the principal utility; and a fourth, its base. Dr. Daubeny gave reasons for rejecting the third and fourth of these hypotheses; but considered that the use of gypsum may be in part attributable to the first, and in part to the second, of the causes pointed out. He supposes that this substance is generally useful to all plants, from its property of fixing ammonia; and also especially serviceable to certain species, by supplying them with a salt which they require for their development. He was principally anxious, however, to bring forward this subject, in the hope of inducing chemists to institute experiments for the purpose of settling the question at rest.

2. Given in our last *Gazette*, and further noticed under a separate title in the present No.

3. Mr. J. Thomas Way endeavoured to solve the question relating to fairy rings in grass pastures, which we were not aware was still unexplained. These circles extend year after year, and are, he considers, caused according to the theory of Decadence respecting the excretions of plants, by a large agaric or toadstool (not the small fairy-ring agaric, the *A. oreades*), which attains a diameter of from four to six inches, and has a thick solid stem and top. When fresh it is nearly white, turning brown gradually as it approaches decay. It is brittle, has no juice, and is nearly tasteless; and is the true St. George's agaric of Clusius, or at least nearly allied to it, *Agar. graveolens*, Sow. When burnt, the ashes are extraordinarily rich, the phosphate of potash amounting to nearly eighty per cent. How this caused the grass to grow more luxuriantly and take the circular form, was not very clear to us; but the author expressed his hope that the inquiry would not be deemed a merely curious one, but lead to a better acquaintance with inorganic manures, and their value in agriculture. [He is, we believe, a member of the Agricultural College at Cirencester.—*Ed. L. G.*]

4. Referring to their former papers on the general laws which they conceived to govern the atomic volumes of bodies; and describing the apparatus and methods they had employed to investigate the difficult questions connected with expansion by heat; and stated the results of their careful and delicate experiments to be, that they had obtained the expansion of eighteen salts and oxides.

6. Transferred to our Sketches of Society and Association.

SECTION C.—(Geology and Physical Geography.)

1. Ibbetson (Capt. B.) and Forbes (Prof. E.) on the vertical tertiary strata of White Cliff Bay, Isle of Wight.
2. Prestwich (Mr.) on the occurrence of cypris at Hamstead Cliff, near Yarmouth.
3. Fitton (Dr.), observations on the arrangement and nomenclature of some subcretaceous strata.
4. Buckman (J.), notes on the silurian beds at Hay Head, near Barr Beacon, Staffordshire.
5. Ibbetson (Capt.) on the oolitic sections of the Great Western Railway.

Of these, the last is here given; the others either coming under our announced arrangement, or merely supplying geological data to the system which has been received by the society.

5. With the permission of Sir Henry De la Beche, the director-general of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, I have the pleasure of laying before you the sections of the Great Western Railway, measured and examined with great care for the Geological Survey, the horizontal and vertical scale being the same, viz. twenty feet to one inch. The first section is at the beginning of the west end of Tapperton Tunnel cutting, and contains the lower beds of the great oolite; then follows fuller's earth, about thirty-five feet thick, beneath which is the upper rag of the inferior oolite, containing three remarkable zones, viz. a zone almost entirely composed of trigonia costata and trigonia angulata, corresponding with a similar bed found by Mr. Lonsdale at Widcombe Hill, near Bath, and also by Messrs. Buckman and Strickland near Lineover. Five feet below that is a zone which is almost a conglomerate of gryphæa cymbium, and beneath, a zone containing large quantities of well-preserved terebratulæ—particularly terebratulæ fimbria. This zone is separated from the gryphæa zone by a highly crystalline rock full of comminuted fossils. These beds are all well remarked in Sir R. Murchison's *Geology of Cheltenham* by Mr. Buckman, with the differences that the crystalline rock in this locality is replaced at Lineover by a bed of clay very fossiliferous. The second section contains also the same strata, with the addition of another zone of terebratulæ above the trigonia zone. In the third section is shown the upper rag, the same as above, and also the upper beds of the lower rag, separated by a soft bastard freestone, split obliquely, highly crystalline, and full of comminuted fossils. This is identical with Mr. Buckman's cream-coloured marlstone, marked 5 in the Lineover section. The upper bed of the lower rag is a marl, five feet thick, very fossiliferous, containing large *Nautili natica cincta*, &c. I cannot pass this opportunity without thanking the railway authorities for the great aid they have rendered me in my geological survey.

SECTION D.—(Zoology and Botany.)

1. Knox (Dr.), note respecting the application of Dr. Thiberti's modelling applied to the natural history of fishes.
2. On recollections of inquiries into the natural history of certain species of the alpeidae, corregoni, and salmonidae.
3. Thompson (Mr.), a few notes on the land mollusca, zoophytes, and algae of the Isle of Wight.
4. Gould (Mr.) exhibited some rare forms and some new species of the family of the trochilidae, or humming birds, from the eastern slopes of the Andes.
5. Allman (Prof.) on an undescribed alga allied to *Coleochaete*.
6. Whistly (Mrs.), exhibition of morus multicaulis (a species of mulberry on which the silkworm feeds).
7. Clark (Mr. B.) on the foliage and efflorescence of the genera *phylanthus* and *xylophylla*.
8. Hogan (Mr. W.) on the means of escaping the ravages of the potatoe disease.
9. Stirling (Mr. M.) on the potatoe disease.
10. Ogby (Mr.) made a communication on the potatoe disease.
11. Crook (Dr.) on the causes of the potatoe failure in 1845 and the present year.

1. Thiberti's modelling is very perfect and beautiful.

2. The longest of lectures, with much irrelevant matter, and a manner almost ludicrous; the information by no means commensurate with the length, nor sufficient to make the hearers overlook the mannerism.

3. Hereafter, in connexion with Mr. Thompson's other instructive pieces of natural history.

4. Curious and interesting to look upon.

## 5. As No. 3.

6. Not quite a new matter, but likely to draw attention to a branch of productive industry which may be cultivated with much benefit nearly throughout the British Isles. The tree bears no fruit. The potato disease in a future *Lit. Gaz.*, all together.

## SECTION E.—(Physiology.)

1. Bennett (Dr. H.) on inflammatory ulceration of the cervix uteri.
2. Retzius (Prof.) on the distribution of round and elongated crania.
3. Carpenter (Dr. W.) on the physiology of the cephalon.

All strictly medical, and so little to do that an adjournment to Tuesday took place. This Section, as well as others, had need to be re-organised.

## SECTION F.—(Statistics.)

1. Beaumont (Mr.) on the limits of means for construction and returns of our carrier inland trade.
2. Heywood (Mr.) on Oxford educational statistics.

## See Thursday.

## SECTION G.—(Mechanics.)

1. Robinson (Dr. T. R.), account of a modification of Dr. Whewell's anemometer.
2. Arago (M.) communicated by Mr. C. Vignoles on a new method of boring for artesian wells.

1. An improvement in Whewell's anemometer, promised, like Prof. Phillips' experiments at York, a more distinct and extensive registry of observations.

2. See Artesian Wells.

## MONDAY.

**General Committee Meeting.**—After the usual preliminary business, the President made a few congratulatory remarks on the visits of Prince Albert, and his subscription of 100*l.* to the funds of the Association; and also to the fact of her Majesty having so far patronised them as to express an interest in their proceedings, and come in her own steamer from the Isle of Wight to Southampton harbour, to carry back her illustrious consort, on Monday afternoon. Delegates with invitations were then called for; and Prof. Walker presented them in a complimentary manner from Oxford, which Dr. Daubeny enforced, and both on the part of the Association, the Ashmolean Society, &c., promised every warmth of welcome and suitable accommodation.

Nobody appeared for Norwich to repeat its former application. The Bishop had been obliged to leave the meeting at the end of the week; and perhaps the Archaeological Institute will be enough for the city in one year.

Prof. Grove then gave a very eloquent invitation from Swansea, pointing out all its fitness, and its anxiety to enjoy the honour. His address literally carried the meeting away, and Swansea was almost fixed for the meeting in 1843. Among other matter, Welsh hospitalities were assured to the members, an ample local subscription, and thence a likely return to the good old times of the Association.

Dr. Robinson spoke for Belfast to succeed Oxford and Swansea.

Prof. Balfour stated that Edinburgh would be glad to receive the Association again.

The Marquis of Northampton then moved that Oxford should be the place for next year's meeting; which was seconded by Sir C. Lemon, and agreed to. The Earl of Rosse, Bishop of Oxford, Mr. Escott, M.P. for the University, Dr. Buckland, Dr. Daubeny, and Prof. Baden Powell were nominated vice-presidents. The Rev. R. Walker and H. W. Acland were appointed local secretaries; and the Rev. Ed. Hill treasurer. It was mentioned that as no lights were allowed in the theatre, the general meetings might probably have to be held in the afternoon, before dining.

The date of meeting was arranged for June 24; and Sir R. H. Inglis—his social qualities as well as his other merits having been eulogised by Dr. Buckland, and confirmed by Sir C. Lemon—was chosen president.

## WEDNESDAY.

The General Committee assembled in the Town-hall at 3 o'clock, and Mr. Taylor read an account

of the tickets issued at the present meeting. They were as follows:

For the old life members	241
new life members	11
new annual subscribers	39
old annual subscribers	67
Associates	268
Foreigners	19
Ladies	198

Total tickets issued 843

The amount received at the present meeting was as follows:

new life members	£110 0 0
new annual subscribers	78 0 0
old ditto	50 0 0
Associates	268 0 0
Ladies	198 0 0
His Royal Highness Prince Albert	100 0 0
For books	8 4 8

£827 4 8

The following grants of money proposed to be now made for objects to be undertaken were then agreed to:

Kew Observatory	£150
Mathematical and Physical Science.	
Erman, A.—Computation of Gaussian for 1839 (continuation)	50
Birt, W.—Researches in atmospheric waves	10
Robinson, Rev. Dr.—Construction of a new anemometer	10
Committee.—Completion of catalogues of stars, for which the Government granted the Association 100 <i>l.</i>	70
Chemical Science.	
Percy, Dr.—On crystalline slugs, &c.	20
Schunck, Dr.—On colouring matters	10
Zoology and Botany.	
Strickland, R. E.—Vitality of seeds	10
Portlock, Captain.—Marine zoology of Corfu	10
Lemon, Sir C. Bart.—Marine zoology of Cornwall	10
Forbes, Prof. E.—Marine zoology of Britain	10
Egerton, Sir P. Bart.—Habits of marine animals	10
Spence, W.—On scorpionidae and arachnida	10
Owen, Prof.—Tabular forms for registering periodical phenomena	10
Physiology.	
Blake, Dr.—Physiological action of medicines	20
Total	£410

It was also resolved that the second and third parts of Dr. Carpenter's report on the microscopic structure of shells, &c., in the forthcoming volume of the Transactions, be illustrated by lithographic plates not exceeding twenty. The price of the plates was not known. The following recommendations of the Committee of Recommendations were agreed to, not involving grants of money:

That Mr. Hopkins be requested to furnish a report on the theory of such movements and displacements of the earth's crust as may be connected with earthquakes; and Mr. Mallet to furnish a report of the static and dynamic facts which have been observed to be the results of earthquakes, or connected with them. That Mr. R. Ellis be requested to continue his report on the recent progress of analysis; Professor E. Forbes, to prepare a report of the state of knowledge of the scalepala; Mr. J. S. Russell, to prepare a report on the present condition of the science of naval construction, including steam navigation. That Mr. R. Mallet be requested to continue his researches on the corrosion of iron rails, in and out of use; Mr. R. Hunt and Mr. Ronalds to continue at Kew, the observations commenced by the former with the actinograph. That the two latter be also requested to continue their investigations and researches on the influence of light on the growth of plants. That Mr. Whewell and Sir J. Ross be requested to draw up a plan for a naval expedition for the purpose of completing our knowledge of the progress of the tides; and the former to draw up brief instructions for tide observations by voyagers. That Dr. Forchhammer's paper on sea currents be printed entire in the Transactions of the Association; and Prof. Owen's on the homologies of the cranial vertebrae, it being understood that the diagrams are capable of being cut in wood.

The following recommendations were agreed to:—

That her Majesty's government be requested to have published the meteorological observations which have been made by the officers of the Irish trigonometrical survey at Mountjoy, and the Pigeon-house, near Dublin, since 1834, and also to direct that, during the progress of the Ordnance trigonometrical survey in the north of Scotland, the so-called parallel roads of Glenlyon and the adjacent country be accurately surveyed with the view of determining whether they are truly parallel, the intervening distances, and the respective elevations above the sea curl.

Prof. Willis gave notice of motion for Oxford to rejoin Section G, Mechanical Science, to Section A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences. All papers on machinery to be submitted to a sub-section.

The officers of the Association were then re-elected, and the committee adjourned.

**Final Meeting.**—The usual homed proceedings of the concluding evening meeting were embittered by accidental gall falling from Sir J. Herschel, who was deputed to eulogise the distinguished foreigners present, amongst them, of course, Oersted pre-eminently; but, speaking of electro-magnetism, he designated all subsequent applications of the power as the *scum* of this discovery. This gave umbrage to a sterling friend of Prof. Wheatstone, who asked Sir John whether he intended to apply "*scum*" in its ordinary sense to Wheatstone's Electric Telegraph. Amidst the consequent cries of order, Dr. Robinson, highly as he appreciated his friend Prof. Wheatstone's discoveries, vindicated Sir John's expression, explaining it, and stating them to be the *effluvia* of Oersted's electro-magnetism. This, however, did not neutralise the bitter; and Sir John, Herschel, withdrew the noxious word, not having intended it in the sense inferred, and thanking the objector for having called his attention to it.

**GUN-COTTON, AND DECOMPOSITION OF WATER BY HEAT ALONE.**

HAVING, in our notice of Mr. Grove's discovery, communicated to the Chemical Section, mentioned that he would repeat the facts to the general body at an evening meeting, and that he would also make the gun-cotton, invented by Prof. Schönbein, a subject of discourse; we give precedence to the Tuesday's evening lecture, promising, however, to our readers ample reports of the able communications by Profs. Owen and Lyell respectively on Friday and Monday. Another reason, too, for this priority is that, in connexion with our last week's account of the decomposition of water by heat alone, we can dismiss this important subject with a few words, whereas delay would necessitate repetition.

As chroniclers we are bound to record that the ladies were kept waiting half an hour, the pleasures or the mischances of the dinner-table being the cause; and that Sir Roderick Murchison, flushed with joy at the increase of honour to the Association during his presidency, did not take the chair until half-past eight o'clock. He apologised for the delay, and at once called upon Mr. Grove to communicate his "important discovery." But Mr. Grove gave precedence to the gun-cotton, with the considerate idea of giving the option of departure to those who came more to see than to hear, Prof. Schönbein's discovery being for the present, at least until patents be secured or national arrangements made, a mere exhibition; Mr. Grove's an exposition of profound science. Very few, however, took advantage of the opportunity, and a numerous assemblage listened attentively to the end. Mr. Grove prefaced the explosion of the gun-cotton with an historical sketch of the invention of gunpowder, and a brief reference to its constituent nature. Of the constituents of the gun-cotton nothing is as yet known. And here we may just remark upon the over-regard of the "British Association" towards this invention.



Not but that it may prove of immense value as a substitute for gunpowder, and possibly, as Dr. Robinson conceived, without, however, hinting at the rationale, become an important motive power. Not depreciating in the least the merits of the invention, nor detracting from the high attainments of our respected foreign associate; but that it necessarily came forward at Southampton as a flash in the pan, and not in any way as an addition to Science. Apart from this relation, we fully appreciate the gun-cotton; and, differing entirely with a Lady Associate near us, think there is a great deal in it. Her remark was, "What a fuss they have made about this gun-cotton! There is nothing in it; it does not grow so. Lord bless you, they have doctored it!" Truly, in appearance natural, it has been doctored admirably. It explodes at about 400°; it emits no smoke; it leaves not a stain behind; it is not deteriorated by damp or wet; at least, dried again, it is as readily explosive as at first; a flock of cotton touched by the hot iron explodes, a flash of orange flame is seen, and no trace of gun-cotton or spot is left. The manufacture of gun-cotton is stated to be cheaper than that of gunpowder, and its force in small charges as two to one; but in larger quantities the difference in favour of the cotton is much greater, owing to the waste of the powder by incomplete combustion. Experiments shewing these properties were exhibited by Mr. Grove, and were received with great delight.

We cannot conclude this subject without briefly alluding to a singular coincidence of invention. It is usual to envelope cartridges in flannel bags; and it is the practice in gunnery to put the bottom of the bag to the breach of the gun. Often, however, in the hurry of firing, the tied end goes in first, and after the discharge a smouldering piece of flannel, unless the vent is closely cared for, endangers the next charging. Not long ago a chemist of England submitted to the captain of the Excellent a "doctored" flannel, which exploded with the powder.

Mr. Grove's own discovery was illustrated by diagrams of the various apparatus he devised and employed; and he ably eliminated the processes that led him to enunciate the fact of the decomposition of water by heat alone. The substance of his communication was identical with our last week's account. And we have only to add a remark or two of Sir John Herschel's with reference to the theory of the discovery. He was disposed to call in catalysis for its *modus operandi*; and suggested the heat of the blowpipe to be superadded to electric heat, and again solar heat to these two, and a careful observance of the results of each and all. His meaning was not quite clear, although he seemed to expect a series of decompositions and recompositions, or alternations of heat as nodal points of chemical affinity. We fully agree with Mr. Grove, in reply, as to the difference in value of theory and fact; and we believe that his discovery is a great fact added to chemical science; and, in fact, we have no such fact in chemistry.

Dr. Robinson spoke, in addition to eloquent remarks on the influence of gunpowder and of other explosive agents on the progress of civilisation, to the opportunity of introduction the British Association afforded. Had it not been for its aid, he would, perhaps, never have enjoyed the pleasure of the acquaintance of Mr. Grove, whose attainments he highly eulogised.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Aug. 3d.—Mr. T. Marshall, V.P., in the chair. Specimens of the rare *Staphylinus Arpedium subpubescens*, collected in Ireland, were sent for distribution by Mr. Haliday; and specimens of the poisonous *Simulium*, of the Bannat, were presented by Mr. Guich. These minute flies annually cause great mortality amongst the cattle in Syria, by biting all the moist and tender parts of the body: they appear in countless myriads, and are commonly supposed by the peasantry to be reared

within the carcass of the dragon slain by St. George, which is affirmed to be deposited in a cavern on an adjacent mountain! Mr. Saunders exhibited a very interesting series of the transformations and cases of six species of *Oiketicus* from New Holland, collected by Mr. Stevenson in one of the recent exploring expeditions. The cases, some of which are of large size, are remarkable for having twigs of trees interwoven into their texture. The following memoirs were read: 1. "Descriptions of numerous new species of the coleopterous genus *Helens* from Australia," by the Rev. F. W. Hope, president of the society. Notwithstanding the recent publication, by the Marquis De Brème, of a monograph of this genus, Mr. Hope has been enabled to add more than a dozen new species to this singular genus of beetles. 2. "Description of a new species of *Pausus* from India, from the collection of Mr. Hope," by Mr. Westwood. 3. "Note of some insects inhabiting the human body," by Mr. G. Downs. 4. "Notice of a remarkable emigration of butterflies across the Straits of Dover, and on the black dolphin of the hop-plantations," by Mr. Long. 5. "Notes on Australian entomology," by Mr. Stevenson. 6. "Description of a new genus of Lamellicorn beetles from India, in which the thorax is dilated behind into a horn which is curved over the back," by Mr. Westwood.

#### LITERARY AND LEARNED.

##### BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. Gloucester Congress.

##### ABSTRACT OF MR. FAIRHOLT'S PAPER ON IRISH FIBULÆ, READ AT CHELTENHAM.

IRISH antiquities may be said to derive their chief interest in the eyes of an Englishman from their very early character. It is not usual in this country to meet with what we sometimes term druidic remains in the profusion with which they are scattered over the sister country. Wiltshire and Cornwall are with us the most prolific counties in examples of cromlechs, stone-pillars, and circular temples; but in Ireland such things are far from uncommon, and are frequently of the greatest interest. In the same manner, the various articles of personal ornament, or implements civil and military occasionally exhumed, give us a curious insight of the state of art and civilisation at a remote period, when Ireland was the seat of learning, a powerful and a prosperous nation. The many fine relics of early art thus discovered in Ireland, and their comparative rarity in our own country, render them objects of much interest; more particularly as they contain within themselves traces of a northern origin, and are in style and character identically the same as the early Danish and Scandinavian antiquities. That species of ornamental design once termed *runic knots*, and which are frequently seen in very early MSS., and articles of personal decoration discovered in barrows in this country, is prevalent. In the present instance our attention must be directed to that portion of costume upon which the northmen of the early ages bestowed much care and attention; I allude to the fibulæ, with which the cloak, and occasionally the tunic, was fastened, and upon which the utmost ingenuity of the goldsmith and jeweller was expended.

Among our Anglo-Saxon ancestors the fibula was an elegant and elaborate specimen of art; it was of large size, of expensive workmanship, formed of the precious metal and enriched with jewels; and it may be safely asserted, that the manual dexterity displayed by the maker of these articles could not be exceeded in the present day. Some fine examples have been discovered in this country, more particularly in the county of Kent, and I may refer to Douglass's *Nenia* for specimens.

The Saxon fibula was circular, the pin secured behind, and never reaching beyond the circumference; the distinction between these and the Irish ones (and this distinction, to be made by comparison, is the principal use of comparing na-

tional antiquities with each other), is in the form of the pin, which is very large, and in that of the ornamental front of the brooch, which is open and lunar shaped. They were used to fasten the heavy cloak on the shoulder, which usually covered the left arm, leaving the right one free. The cloak resembled the classic pallium, and was a thick woollen garment, suited to the wet cold climate of the inhabitants. Their fibulæ were larger and stronger than those worn at the same period in England; the pins were sometimes fourteen inches in length, and the lunette of the fibula eight inches in diameter. When so large they are usually of silver or bronze; the golden ones are smaller, and those which I have seen of that metal are apparently of much more modern manufacture.

By the sumptuary laws of the ancient Irish, the size of these brooches or fibulæ was regulated according to the rank of the wearer, and that was immediately known by the brooch he wore. General Vallancy, in the seventh volume of his *Collectanea*, has given a very remarkable one upon which is an inscription in the Ogham characters, which he says contains the name of the wearer, and a statement of his profession. He says this brooch is one of those mentioned in our laws by the name of *aicde-aicgiol*, and valued at five cows; it is of silver, of the intrinsic value of three pounds. The inscription may be translated:

"Maelmaire, a church-singer.  
Maelmaire, a famous psalmist of Mac-Iudaigh."

It is in the Ogham, which he says he had not before seen but in inscriptions on stones. Concerning these characters, he says they were a secret mysterious form of writing, as the word implies, and that the characters were originally in form like a dart, as the Babylonian and Persepolitan inscriptions are; but the value of the letters consist as much in their position as in their form: he adds, "the powers of the alphabet are lost," and "it is in vain to attempt to read the Ogham alphabet of Ireland, any more than those of Babylon and Persepolis." Yet, as we have just seen, the inscription upon this brooch has been translated; and Vallancy himself, notwithstanding his assertion to the contrary, always professes to read them; and with a strange determination to do so, actually uses three various alphabets to translate one inscription at New Grange consisting of only five letters. This and other translations of inscriptions are more fanciful than satisfactory; while the one upon the high altar, upon which he is most certain and diffuse, and which he reads "BELL DINOSE," "to Belus, god of fire," is now known to be the work of some idler, who cut on it his name and the date of the year, thus: "E. Conid, 1731." Vallancy has so carefully engraved this inscription, that, upon turning his engraving upside down, the truth at once presents itself. Many of the other inscriptions are most probably weather-marks, and in the absence of any authority for the fixation of an alphabet, it does seem more than strange to determine the exact value and representation of any mark or letter. As far as regards the inscription upon this brooch, it appears rather unlikely that a man would walk about with a large pendant on his neck inscribed with his name and profession, as well as a puffing announcement of himself as "the famous psalmist of Mac-Iudaigh," when the brooch itself must have testified to the rank of the wearer without this; and as the inscription may be read all ways, as prose or poetry, it does not appear worthy of much attention; in fact, the Ogham altogether is clouded with uncertainty; and as it bears so much resemblance to the dates on Runic monuments, or the old Clog Almanacks, it is far from improbable that they may have been intended for numerals only. This is a point worthy of consideration, but which must be here dismissed, as we have to consider these fibulæ simply as works of art.

Without the assistance of engravings it will be impossible here to follow out Mr. Fairholt's paper, as it was chiefly devoted to the explanation of a

series of beautiful examples of these early relics of Irish art, which he had collected in a tour in that country, and which he analysed and classified according to the presumed date of each, as given by comparing them with other early monuments, the ornamentation of mss. &c. The beauty and finish of many of these articles were great, and proved the high standing the jeweller and goldsmith had attained at this early period. There was extraordinary fancy and taste in many, and contrasted as they were with a highly finished drawing of the magnificent Anglo-Saxon fibula recently discovered at Sarr, in the Isle of Thanet, the national distinction of form was curiously apparent, and shewed the utility of an enlarged view of national antiquities, which may lead us to arrange and classify those of our own countrymen with tolerable certainty. The exhibition and description of these curious drawings occupied some time, and Mr. F. concluded by calling attention to these facts, and saying, "I am actuated only by a desire of offering them as specimens of the great excellence to which the art of the goldsmith and jeweller had arrived at that early period, and to shew the remarkable distinction in design and form between those discovered in Ireland and those found in our own country. It is only by comparison and analogy that we can arrive at the age and date of these articles, and the distinctive character of fashion in each country. Their novelty of appearance and beauty of design excited an interest in my own mind when I first saw them in Ireland; and if I have succeeded in exacting any analogous feeling in that of my hearers, my object will be attained."

#### BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

Sept. 9th. Meeting of Council.—Some new members were elected, and nineteen communications on various subjects of antiquarian interest were read or laid on the table; but our columns are this week so much occupied with other matters of temporary interest that we can give no more than a brief notice. Mr. C. Baily communicated drawings of curious early gravestones, ornamented with crosses, from churches in Kent and Essex. Mr. J. Brent, Junr. gave an account, with a drawing, of a remarkable Norman (perhaps Saxon) stone archway, discovered the previous week in excavating on the site of the ancient city wall at Canterbury. A letter was read from Mr. Wheelwright, British resident in Lima, announcing that he had sent a detailed and official account of extraordinary antiquarian discoveries recently made of ancient cities in Peru, but which has not yet arrived. Mr. Smith and Mr. Goddard Johnson, of Norwich (who was present) gave an account of a gold torques recently found in Norfolk, which they had succeeded in rescuing for a few days from the melting pot. Mr. Smith exhibited a remarkable Saxon leaden fibula, recently found in London, and now in his possession: it is evidently of remote antiquity, and has letters inscribed, which appear to give no sense, but are of the wedge-shaped characters, like those on the earliest sticas. Mr. Goddard Johnson exhibited a very rare Saxon sceatta, found in Norfolk. Mr. Smith laid on the table a drawing of a Roman inscribed altar, recently found at York, and furnishing the name of a local deity not previously known. Mr. Smith also exhibited a number of drawings from unedited Roman altars dedicated to the *Dæa Mairæ*, which he had observed in his recent visit to the antiquities of Treves. Mr. Haggard announced that some tons weight of ingots of tin had been discovered at Hearne Bay, of which he hoped to be enabled to exhibit a specimen. They had the king's stamp, and appeared to have been intended for coining. Mr. Fairholt exhibited and described a drawing of a singularly fine bedstead preserved in the Museum of Aix-la-Chapelle, which place he had visited in company with Mr. Smith. He also exhibited a drawing of a very elegantly decorated tomb in the wall of St. Peter's Church, Sandwich, which had been discovered and rescued

from oblivion by the zeal of the incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Pemble. It had been, like so many other ancient church ornaments, whitewashed over. Among papers which we have not room to notice were communications from Messrs. Rolfe, Lower, Chaffers, Burckett, &c.

#### FINE ARTS.

##### RECENT DISCOVERY OF WORKS BY M. ANGELO.

THE following very interesting letter has been received from a female friend of ours, the daughter of a late eminent artist (engraver), and well competent to judge of what she writes. Married into a collateral branch of the family of the immortal painter (her husband inhabits the palazzo belonging to it by descent), she has certainly made a fortunate use of the opportunity it offered her to imitate the famous Fatima of our Blue-Beard tale, without the peril of her disobedient adventure. We have much pleasure in stating the results, which must deeply gratify all lovers of the fine arts.—*Ed. L. G.*

I believe you are aware that I am spending much time and trouble in putting the gallery to rights (the Buonarrotti Gallery), disturbing dust, dirt, and spiders that have quietly slumbered for years or rather centuries. In the course of my perambulations I found a curiously and handsomely carved pair of walnut-wood doors, exactly opposite to a closet on the other side of the room. I endeavoured to open the first-named doors, but there was neither bolt, lock, keyhole, nor fastening of any kind. Having a good strong fit of curiosity upon me, I sent for the Covr., and asked him how to open the supposed closet; he assured me the doors in question were only ornamental, and had been placed there to correspond with the door of the opposite closet, and that he, and all his family before him, had always held them to be sham doors; and in support of his argument, he made me observe the shallow depth of the wall of partition. Still unconvinced, I determined to pull open these doors. At length I accidentally pressed my hand upon a piece of the ornamental carving, when, to my surprise and delight, it flew back and discovered a keyhole. My next step was to rummage all the odd-looking rusty old keys in the house, and, to make a long story short, the key was found; and upon opening the door, I found Michael Angelo's own original wax model of his superb David, looking even more majestic and imposing than the well-known gigantic statue on the Piazza del Gran Duca, which may be imputed to the fact of his having been stunted in the size of the block of marble. Besides this master-piece, the cupboard further contained two other wax models by Michael Angelo, one his *Giorno*, the other his *Crepuscolo*, both of which are in the chapel called Cappello di Michel Angelo in the church of St. Lorenzo. There were likewise in this same closet models in clay, by Giovanni di Bologna; they are his first conceptions of his most celebrated groups and statues. Another in wax, by Baccio Bandinelli, besides another by an unknown hand. Then at the bottom of all, under a thick veil of cobweb, I perceived a quantity of fragments, which appeared to me of surpassing beauty. I collected the pieces, and joined them together with boiling wax, thread, &c. &c., when, to my great delight, I found my fragments assumed the form of the torso and legs of a satyr, which is one of the finest works of art which can be imagined. The celebrated engraver Jesi and another artist chanced to call upon us, and both proclaimed the satyr to be the work of Michael Angelo; but then we had no proof of such being the case. Now comes what I deem the marvellous part of the story. The following morning I again occupied myself groping and poking about the gallery, particularly in an old cabinet or closet, which they say Michael Angelo used to write in. At length I pulled out a drawer, the handle of which was missing, in consequence of which I presume it escaped being ransacked by servants and others for centuries, as I found therein a beautiful

coloured glass scent-bottle, of so elegant a shape and so beautifully mounted in silver in the antique style, that there is little doubt of its being a little ornament of the sixteenth century; be that as it will, it is a matter of no consequence compared with the treasure I found exactly under this said bottle, viz. a letter dated 1660, from one Covr. Pansani, who begs the Proc. Buonarrotti to accept a *Torso di Satiro*, the work of his great ancestor Michael Angelo, that the said precious relic would be in better keeping in the Proc. Buonarrotti's hands than in his own almost extinct family. The letter then goes on to state how it came into his possession, saying that it originally belonged to one of his ancestors contemporary with Michael Angelo, and had descended subsequently as an heir-loom from father to son. He further added, that the original holder of the *satiro* held it in such high estimation, that he always kept it in his own private apartment, *come cosa preziosa*. In this extraordinary manner have I obtained the proof wanting of the authenticity of my *satiro*.

#### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

##### FRANCE.

Paris, September 1st, 1846.

I SELDOM, or rather never, lead you into the sanctuary of justice. It certainly is not that we should lack there an opportunity of making a rich harvest of moral studies and philosophical reflections. But your journal, being more especially devoted to literature, would in its spirit scarcely accord with those narratives, more or less dramatic, to which our times are so partial.

To-day I must transgress my usual boundary. At Rennes (*Ile et Vilaine*) a cause has been pleaded in which are involved the most lofty ideas and the most important doctrines; and while I briefly narrate the groundwork of the debate, I consider I shall thereby convey to you a correct notion of the intellectual disorder which is likely to be the first result, at least as an ephemeral phenomenon, of extreme diffusion of knowledge.

The chief editor of a provincial paper, the *Journal de Rennes*, is prosecuted for a libel against a lecturer on Roman law at the French bar. M. Sarget, however, had merely inserted a letter in which the fathers of several families called for the intervention of the authorities to check the wild vagaries of this lecturer, whose talents are generally admitted, but who has erred so far as to propagate doctrines totally subversive of social order. "Religious dogmas, sacred texts (it was asserted in this public denunciation), are perverted by the professor, moral principles are scoffed at by him, marriage is attacked in its most sacred rights, and its most holy mysteries are revealed to young men from seventeen to eighteen years of age, with so much cynical effrontery that the very thought raises a blush."

The debate took place before a jury, and evidence by witnesses as to the truth of the libel was deemed admissible on the part of the editor as well as of the lecturer. The one had to establish, the other to refute, the facts alleged against the latter. One of the witnesses called for the defendant—himself a subscriber to the protestation—deposed to the following facts as related to him by his son, a student for the first term.—M. S. (the lecturer) repeatedly said that he was sent on earth by the Almighty to re-establish marital as well as paternal authority in the same way as Jesus Christ had been deputed to preach charity. He translated these words, "*Deus caritas est*," by this version, "God is marriage; he unites in his person the male and female elements." He asserted that man was bound to contribute as much as lay in his power to the propagation of the species, and that our civil laws were in so far defective that they impeded this propagation, by which they have necessitated the establishment of dens of prostitution. . . . M. S. said, moreover, that all houses of refuge, all convents, were immoral establishments; that the women who shut themselves up therein were less per-



fect beings than common prostitutes, because they viewed the preservation of their maiden state; whilst the greatest crime of prostitutes, in his eyes, arose from the fact of being, by debauchery, incapacitated for reproduction. Again, he asserted that celibacy was a greater crime than adultery, or than manslaughter, which only destroys the body, whilst celibacy leaves in a state of non-existence a number of beings which might be called to life. M. S. contended he could regenerate the human family by a threefold power, bestowed on the husband, — 1st, power of life and death; 2d, divorce; 3d, polygamy. He attacked auricular confession, which he considered as immoral, because it tends to invest priests with a portion of the power which belongs properly to the husband; and domestic life, which he considers as the greatest curse of modern times, &c. We must add, that to this condemnatory evidence the professor opposed the most respectable testimony as to his talents and the purity of his conduct. It can, however, scarcely be doubted that the accusation was not groundless; for the council of the University, after an inquiry instituted by the principal members of the Academy of Rennes, had rusticated, as it were, the lecturer, in fact, and suspended him from his functions for the space of several months. It was imagined, no doubt, that this season of retirement would quiet his vivid imagination, and so far restore him to tranquillity as to enable him to resume his lectures without indulging in such unwonted vagaries.

This affair, upon which the judges have not yet decided, produced here much sensation, and this, no doubt, from the influence which, it must be acknowledged, will be exercised by it in our debates on the freedom of tuition. For if professors of the University, selected with so much care and subjected to such severe control, are enabled to propagate for years these pernicious doctrines, what harm might not be effected by the dispensation of uncontrolled tuition, and what strange dogmas could be preached by men self-invested with that important mission, and whose elucidations would not be superintended!

The opening of our shooting season, which is a source of such pre-occupation to our sportsmen of all ranks and ages, forms also the subject of a certain quantity of literary narratives on the arts of Nimrod. One of our sportsmen (the husband of a celebrated singer), in a review whose circulation is somewhat limited, thus narrates the incidents of sporting such as it is practised in England. Just see if you can recognise yourselves, and if our countryman has hit the mark: "Everybody is aware (does he say) that the fields in England are all divided by so many hedge-rows, which, with gates well shut, enclose them on all sides. Thus is avoided the want of a keeper for either cattle or horses. The result of this is an economy of servants: It is then impossible to enjoy the sport as we do in our open and level plains, or as it is practised in Brittany and the Berry, by rushing through a thorny enclosure, much to the peril and risk of our clothing, and of the flesh it protects. This would be uneconomical and contrary to custom. The following is the usual practice: We used to stroll on, with our hands in our pockets, chatting about politics, literature, or agricultural meetings, along the neat and well kept little lanes which are used in the various estates, when we reached a barrier, which had to be opened with a key. Pedro was started alone in the field (Pedro was a pointer), and he, galloping around and taking the wind with marvellous ability, had soon explored the ground. Take notice that, in consequence of a rainy season, many tardy crops were still standing, which perhaps never ripened, and that, in consequence, even our dog had only access to those fields which were bare, and where the game could not be abundant. But what of it? Custom insists upon the sport beginning on the 1st of September. When Pedro returned, as the dove to Noah's ark, without having found where to stop, we went on till we reached another barrier, and the experiment was renewed.

When at last a covey of birds was at hand, the good Pedro would find them out thirty yards off, and, once pointing, both he and the partridges would have starved sooner than quit the place. In such a case we entered the enclosure, slowly, gravely, one after the other, and marching in a row at equal distances from each other, we advanced together towards the game indicated by the dog. When the first bird rose, when the first shot was fired, Pedro would lie on the ground as fearful of taking up the dead bird as of frightening away the others. With the English, fetching a dead bird is a radical defect in a dog. As for the other sportsmen, the gunshot seemed to have upon them the effect of a clap of thunder, of a Gorgon's head, they turned to stone, nailed on the spot. Not one of them would move a step or limb till their companion had reloaded his gun, which he would do as slowly and compositely as if on parade in a Prussian army. Then the march was resumed, all together in a row, till the whole covey had dispersed beyond the enclosure. As for me, I looked on in wonder, unable to comprehend a pleasure taken so quietly, in so disciplined and mournful a manner, hring now and then a stray shot with as much gravity and sadness as my companions."

If you desire to know what our papers have been busy about during the week, I will tell you in a few words,—about their advertisements! A company was formed to purchase for 1,300,000f. a year (52,000l.) the advertisements of the *Débats*, the *Presse*, the *Constitutionnel*, and the *Siccle*. Naturally they have an interest in undervaluing those newspapers whose circulation is not farmed out to them, and which they represent as being very limited. Now these said papers are twenty-two in number; some of them are much read, and contend they have a circulation equal to that of the four large newspapers. So they returned an angry answer to the circular of the *Société Duvierger* (the above-named company), and the debate consisted in establishing how many subscribers the four large papers and the twenty-two small ones had (the enormous *Epoque* is one of the latter). The numbers have at last been settled as follows,—85,000 for the papers farmed by the *Société Duvierger*, and 70,000 for the others. You see that, independently of the *Compagnie Générale*, readers enough are left to prevent an advertisement from being lost. Amongst other mysteries brought to light by these mercantile polemics I will mention the sale of the *Constitutionnel*, ceded by M. Véron, its able editor, to M. Mosselmann (the brother of Mme. Lehon) for the trifle of 335,000f. (13,600l.). It is said that the bargain conceals a political intrigue, as the *Constitutionnel* is thus diverted from the influence of M. Thiers and his friends, who latterly wanted to become its proprietors, and whom M. Véron has (so they say) most abominably betrayed. It is also said that M. Mosselmann has the worst of the bargain, as he buys a newspaper at a loss of 100,000f. a year. In fact, there is no end to conjecture on the subject of this sale, the real facts of which nobody knows.

Will Mdle. Rachel go to Italy for a year? Will M. Duchâtel (Minister of the Interior) continue to her during that period of her absence her salary of 100,000f. which she receives from the Théâtre Français? This is another disputed point. The truth is, that Mdle. Rachel, who is suffering from the effects of a very severe illness, must quit the stage for six months at least to recruit her health. The Théâtre Français, at a loss to know what actress it can now enlist, has offered, Mdle. Rose Chéri (of the Gymnase) a blank engagement to be filled up by her as she pleases. Mdle. Rose Chéri evinced in her resolution an honourable feeling which cannot be too much lauded, and declared that her word, engaged to the lessee of the Gymnase, would prevent her from accepting, whatever might be the conditions offered, the proposals made to her. This feeling is most creditable, and will benefit her; for Mdle. Rose Chéri at the Français would probably have proved a failure.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

Trèves, Sept. 5, 1846.

WHILE the Rhine is haunted by tourists of all countries and kinds, its inns full to overflowing, its steam-boats equally crowded, and the whole tribe of sight-seers literally infesting its banks, here am I in the ancient city of Trèves, almost as lonely as "the last man," as far as my fellow-countrymen are concerned; yet does it offer attractions secondary to no town on the Rhine-waters, while in objects of historic interest it is very superior to many. "The blue Moselle" still retains its pristine beauty, as youthful and as fresh as when the Roman poet Ausonius strung his lyre to her praises. May I also add, that her twin sister, the Rhine, cannot now lay claim to the purity and simplicity of her early days? There is a meretricious trickery about her towns, a gaudiness of decoration in the hotels, and a strange mixture of the modern fashionable with the sternness of the Drachenfels and the olden simplicity of the Nonnenworth. It has become, like our own Richmond-hill, a once-poetic but now a Cockney spot; and a journey "up the Rhine" will soon be as common and as unromantic as "a trip to Margate." Everywhere are the English, guide-book in hand, speculating on localities, naming each place they successively reach as readily as if it was Purfleet or Gravesend; confounding their *v's* and *w's* as they do within the sound of Bow-bell, and criticising and patronising the scenery as they would the painted ones in the Surrey Zoological Gardens. Coblenz is one of the grand resting-places of the tourist who is proceeding from Cologne to Mayence in the beaten track; and it is astonishing to find how continually its monotonous course is trodden. Neither to the right nor the left does the tourist turn; he goes on with the rest, who, like flocks of sheep, continue their even course, and admire by rote all that their guide-books enlarge upon. Here and there one may be seen who is inclined to doubt the justice of the high-flown encomiums bestowed upon some particular locality, or even to raise the question in his own mind as to whether the Rhine has not had an undue amount of notice, to the exclusion of many other beautiful rivers. To such a doubter we should say, follow the course of the Moselle as it runs at nearly a right-angle to its more celebrated sister at Coblenz, and explore those beauties it still presents, and which induced the Roman poet to sing its praises, although the rivers of Italy were visited by him, and were doubly dear as those of his native land. Its banks are as noble as those of the Rhine; like that river it is rendered picturesque by many a stern old ruin; cloistered abbey and feudal castle abound on its banks, and the many quiet villages are still more picturesque than those on the Rhine, because the hand of modernisation has not been there. The moss grows on the wall, and the many-hued stain of long years of sunshine and storm tinge the quaint old houses which greet the traveller's eye. The quiet *gasthaus* of old Prussia takes the place of the Parisian Rhine-hotel, with its chandeliers, its gilding, and its over-charged pretension; and the mind is relieved by the unpretending quietude and perfect simplicity of the whole. Small steam-boats start regularly in the summer season for Trèves, reaching that city in two days. Though small, these boats have "all appliances and means to boot" on board for the comfort of travellers, and they stop in the evening to land them for the night at the most convenient town. It is but one day's journey *down* the river from Trèves to Coblenz, owing to the rapidity of the stream; but the traveller who is anxious to reach Trèves in a day must go by the *mûlle-pöste*, leaving Coblenz at seven in the morning, and getting to its journey's end by eight in the evening. It is a long day's ride, but a pleasant one, and by no means so monotonous as the journey to Paris by the same conveyance; for the road is most singularly wild and picturesque, and the traveller has frequently to alight, and walk for a mile or two up the side of a precipitous moun-

tain, while the coach finds its way slowly behind. There are many of these mountain-pathways remarkable for their beauty, while the singular formation of the rock, and the extraordinary manner in which the mineral springs wind their way in the tortuous paths left amid their clefts, is most striking to one unacquainted with the first principles of geological knowledge. The lake of Laseh is not far distant, a lake formed in an extinct volcano; and all around is scenery of the most quaint and singular character. Such scenery and such diversity beguile the way; and in these days of railways may really be welcomed as a pleasant change, and a little relief from their monotony. The friends with whom I travelled could not suppress a smile at the thought of leaving the coach *en route*, and rambling off, right and left of the road into the woods, to gather nuts and blackberries. Yet let me give the Belgian railway its fair share of credit for obliging travellers: one lost his hat soon after the starting of the train, but it was civilly stopped until the guard could pick it up and return it to the *voyageur*.

It were useless to enlarge on the beauties of the Moselle; but a volume might be devoted to it, and also to the *Belgian Rome*, as Treves was anciently termed. Not a little vain were the citizens of the olden time of their antiquity, and the inscription on the ancient Hotel-de-Ville proudly tells the reader that Treves existed 300 years before Rome. This hotel is now devoted to the traveller's accommodation, and is known as 'The Red House' Hotel. It is an interesting home for the antiquary who visits the city, and he who does cannot fail to be delighted with the many noble relics there to be seen.

The grandest and most important of these remains is the *Porta Maris*, or *Porta Nigra*, an ancient gate to the city before the reign of Constantine. It is of colossal dimensions and magnificent proportions, 115 feet in length; the principal tower 70 feet in height. It is constructed of enormous blocks of sandstone, clamped together with iron, no mortar or cement having been used in the building. But here, as in the Coliseum, the hand of the barbarian conquerors of Rome have been busy, and the edges of the stones have been broken away, in order to obtain the iron with which they were riveted. Tuscan columns support the building, and ornament its face. It has shared many vicissitudes; in the middle ages it was formed into a church; the double entrance gates were hidden by a flight of steps leading to the first stage of the building; thus the pagan fortification became a Christian church until the time of the first French Revolution, when the gateway, having lain for nearly 800 years blocked up, was again restored to its original use as the gate of the city; and the additions made to it to fit it for a church were removed where practicable; the apex of the church, a venerable and ornamental relic of the twelfth century, being allowed to stand beside the more ancient building, which it now helps to sustain. Within the *Porta Nigra* is a collection of sculptures discovered in Treves and the neighbourhood, which testify strongly to the wealth and importance of the town during the Roman period, when, as their authors tell us, she was the richest, the most glorious, and the greatest of the towns on that side of the Alps; the northern capital, in fact, of Roman dominion. There are some fragments here as fine as the Elgin marbles, not to mention others equally beautiful preserved in the public museum, as well as in private hands.

The palace of Constantine, as it is popularly termed, is another interesting pile, constructed entirely of the flat Roman tiles, which have a singular effect when used in the construction of so large a building: it has originally displayed a series of double arches, open, and in two tiers; beautifully constructed of the same materials; a layer of mortar being placed between each brick, of the same thickness as the brick, which, constructed with the peculiar strength so characteristic of this material,

is as hard and endurable as stone. This building, like the *Porta Nigra*, has suffered changes, and has been hidden by stucco, and disfigured by more modern alterations, in adapting it to the Electoral Palace. It is now, however, about to be restored to something like its original purity. Workmen are busily engaged in clearing away the modern additions, and restoring the antique features of the building. All this is being done judiciously; and we were agreeably surprised at finding bricklayers employed in pounding tiles to form the mortar of the necessary restorations in the style of the older work. In the inner quadrangle discoveries are making; the foundations of the original buildings are discoverable, with underground cells of considerable size.

The *Therma* are close to this building, and may indeed have been originally a part of it. Their grandeur and beauty carry the imagination to Rome; and standing amid them, the spectator may more readily imagine himself in the Eternal City than in a quiet little Prussian town. A short walk across the fields leads to the equally interesting amphitheatre; and here the visitor must notice the admirable manner in which the Romans adapted their site to their convenience. It is constructed on the side of a hill, so that in cutting slightly into it, the slope on the off side forms the embankment of one half the amphitheatre. The seats are gone, but the circular stone walls remain all round the arena; and the entrances are still in a perfect condition; much more so than any views which I have seen would lead a person to imagine. With the same amount of inaccuracy the arena is said to be laid with slate, whereas it is the solid rock which forms the floor. A careful observer will find much here to examine; and a few hours' study will enable him from existing fragments to determine the original form and arrangement of the building. I may add, however, that there seems to be no foundation for the arched superstructure all round the top of the hill as given by Quednar, and engraved in Dawson Turner's *Guide to Treves*, and which appears to have been derived from a study of Roman amphitheatres of stone, and not principally of earthwork; indeed, this at Treves forms an interesting link between those entirely erected of stone, and others entirely of earth, as at Dorchester and Cirencester in our own country.

In the cathedral, the substructure of which is Roman, some interesting discoveries have been made of capitals, ornamental arches, and figures of saints of the twelfth century; they well repay a visit, and are particularly curious as shewing the use of colour in that age, for the foliage that ornaments the sweep of the arch is painted in various tints.

The vicinity of Treves also abounds in objects of antiquity; the famous Roman monument of Igel, as remarkable a relic of that people as any in existence, most amply repays a visit. It is about four miles from the bridge (which also has a Roman foundation), and is a most delightful excursion. Opposite is Konz, which takes its name from Constantine, who had a summer palace there. Immediately without the city, the church of St. Matthias abounds with early Christian tombs and relics. But indeed the whole neighbourhood is equally fertile. The lover of the picturesque will be delighted with the lovely scenery and the quiet walks about the city. The rocks opposite afford fine views of the town when their summits are gained; and indeed few places are more beautifully situated.

It is matter of surprise that this interesting city, but a day's journey distant from Coblenz, should be so little visited by the English, who go by hundreds up the Rhine, and even repeat the journey when it becomes almost monotonous, leaving the Moselle unvisited and almost unknown. One feels confident it wants only some authoritative man of taste and talent to set the example of a tour up the Moselle to Treves, to make it equally favourite and as much appreciated. Perhaps some readers of these brief and imperfect remarks may be induced

to try the journey when they are next at Coblenz, and see

"How much of power—how much of pride  
And beauty, which should longer brave  
The might of Time's restless tide,  
Lies wreck'd around you, men of Treves,  
Who live beside the blue Moselle,  
And quaff the stream ye love so well.  
When gazing on your fallen state,  
Methought I gazed on mighty Rome;  
The tottering wall—the ruined gate—  
The wreck of many a regal dome—  
All that at Rome I sigh'd to see,  
I saw again, old Treves, in thee."

#### SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

VARIORUM: BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

A COPY from the following unique production has partially found its way from Southampton into some of the London newspapers, but we cannot refuse ourselves and our readers the amusement of reading it *verbatim et literatim* from the original. It is but fair to the writer to say that he has raised himself to a place of trust and mining importance from the humblest station, and is as eminently distinguished by good conduct as by natural talent. This is his account of her Majesty's and Prince Albert's exploration of a Cornish mine; and we question if the chief directors and engineers of a railroad, or a great peer entertaining royalty, could display a finer feeling that everything should go off in apple order.

12th Sept 1846 Restormel Mine Counting house  
Dear Sir as I was in Such Bursel When I wrote to you Last I will Now give a Correct Account of her Mghtys visit to our Mine on the 10th of Sept 1846 A Bout 11 o'clock the Queen and Prince Albert a Long with their attendence Came from Guileys Hill heird Down to the Castel Praded the fields a Little then Came to the Mouth of the Level when 5 waggons was Prepared Lined with Green Beasse wich I and My Br Ceptn had a Smart

Bustel But I glad to tell you it was In Prime stile We Proceed a way Underground with Load Cheers a bout 300 fm. then we gout In to the Load when Myself Declared it was Perfectly Dry and Safe She and the Prince and Some others wich

Came In with Gout out of the waggons the traveled on the Level wich was Driven on the Corner of the Load wich 17 Iarn My Br Ceptn gave Prince albert the Pick wich he took In his hand And Broke out Some ore And Put In his Pocket then I Put him In a Crost butt Driven a bout 9 feet wich was In to the West Load then I gave him the Pick wich he took out of My hand And Broke out of the West Load I held My hat Cap wich he Bracke it In took it out of My hat And Put it In his Pocket then Came out to the train waggon And Got In to it And Came out safe And Sound with Loud And Merey Cheers the Gout In their Carige And hasted a way to fowey I talked to the men a Bout Conducting themselves the Did So to the praise of all a Round for wich I ham Highly Grated I ham happy to Let you Know we had not a singel Shade of Blunder you May Reley on this statement to be Corect Thursday Eveng 9 o'clock Good Knight Yours Jn Collins Now In the Counting house

Another letter gives a similar account, and adds that the miners are "going to have a dinner underground next week in the Place where Prince Albert and Queen went." Mr. C. invites his friend to come and go underground, and promises to take "as much care of him as he did of the Queen," but the best of the story is, that his loyal enthusiasm also discharged itself in poetry, whereof we have obtained a copy. Here it is:—

The Eighth of Sept  
It was the grand Day

\* *Elegy on Treves*, by Conrad Celtis, translated in Dawson Turner's *Guide to the Roman antiquities there*—an indispensable book to a stranger.



the Queen and the Prince

a visit Did Pay

2 the Queen she Consented

to go underground

the Prince he was willing

And Join In the sound

3 the went und ground

without any fear

with Lords of the Nation

and Ladies we hear

4 the Gazed on the Load

from which the Did Break

a Portion of ore

a Long with them Did take

5 a goin In the Waggon

their seats the Did take

Each Draun By 6 men

so Grand was the sight

6 and when to the mouth

of the Level the Came

three Cheers for the Queen

Some one Did exclaim

7 the Cheers that was shouted

made the old Castel to ring

Long Live the Queen

Long Live the Queen

The next curiosity of literature and science was a paper which, by some oversight, was passed by the Chemical Sectional Committee, and actually read in the Section. The *Times* and *Punch* in their diatribes and jests have alluded to it, but we think the British Association can well afford to laugh at it, and a dozen of other such slips, which will find their way among the crowd of better things. The author, Mr. Knowles, seems to have considered the phenomenon to be highly philosophical. The communication and its illustrative diagram are subjoined,—the italics are the author's:

The following extraordinary appearance in the flame of a common mould candle (in a flat candlestick) was witnessed by Edward R. J. Knowles and his mother, the Dowager Lady Knowles, on the 18th of April this year (1846).

The writer was engaged in looking over some papers on business, when his attention was suddenly attracted by the light of the candle flitting as though a moth had flown into the flame; when, to his surprise, instead of an insect struggling in the flame of the candle, he saw a bright spot revolving with great rapidity in the flame, to which he called the attention of his mother, Lady Knowles, who was near him, and who also distinctly observed this singular appearance. On examining it, the bright spot was found to be the end of a very fine filament, attached to the side of the wick, about half-way up the ignited part, and was thus held to it; while the extremity, with the bright spot of light, revolved in a circle like a Catherine-wheel,—the circle described being about one-eighth, or three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter. It revolved with a velocity of about three or four revolutions in a second, and ceased revolving in about three seconds. As stated, when it commenced it was a very small luminous point, and it increased visibly in size as it revolved, becoming eventually a ball or aggregation of carbon, suspended by a single thread, like a very fine hair.



Q. May not electricity, developed in the flame of the candle, have been the cause of this point revolving? It was difficult to account for it on the principle of a Catherine-wheel, as it increased in size in revolving,—having commenced only as a bright point,—the very reverse of what takes place

in a Catherine-wheel; nor was there any apparent cause to propel it.

#### OUR INDIAN EMPIRE.

SOME of our recent Indian journals give an account of a region and people approached and made known by the extension of our conquests, but which hardly figure, if they figure at all, in our maps or geographical works, though we have a Resident there anxiously endeavouring to improve their condition. Yet the particulars are very interesting. The country is called the Goomsoor or Gomsoor, and it is inhabited by an aboriginal race, presumed to be of Scythian origin, called the Khonds or Khoonds. They are described to be in person, intellect, manners, and customs, altogether unlike the inhabitants of Hindostan; fearfully addicted to drunkenness; and with female infanticide and promiscuous cohabitation prevalent amongst them. Most singular of all, hundreds and hundreds of persons are annually destroyed as sacrifices to appease the offended deity.\* It is but twenty years, says our authority, since we first knew of their existence, but ten since we became acquainted with their peculiarities.

The last accounts of them were derived from Captain M'Pherson, whom they threatened with an attack at Kungoor, in March last. He had, however, intimation of their intentions, and called up three companies of native infantry to reinforce his camp of about fifty men. They just arrived in time; for they had not joined two hours, when about a thousand armed men came rushing on from the hills, hooting and yelling like demons, and making straight for the camp, where they supposed the escort of Captain M'Pherson were all they had to deal with. Observing the reception they were likely to experience, they halted suddenly, and a few leading men came forward, desiring to speak with the commanding officer. He accordingly proceeded to hear them, when, after some conversation, they peaceably retired. For the next four days all remained quiet: on the 22d, about two thousand advanced in hostile guise, as many more being reported to be concealed behind the hills. When within two or three hundred yards of us they halted, and sent on about fifty men from their front, who came hooting and yelling, running and dancing from side to side, till within fifty or sixty paces of the sepoys. The order was given to fire, when three fell, a good many were wounded, and the rest made off as rapidly as possible. Nothing more occurred till the 29th, when Captain M'Pherson marched on Pooranghur, and succeeded in making prisoners of six of the principal men who had been concerned in the previous attack. They came on on three sides in great force, with a lot of matchlock men, being only armed in general with bows, arrows, and axes.

Dr. Bradley of Ellichpoor, in a paper read to the Bombay Geographical Society, states of the Khoonds, that they "occupy a considerable range of country, and appear to be scattered over the wilder tracts of the Ganjam district bordering on the Chilka Lake—touching on a few parts the Bay of Bengal. They are found on the northwest confines of Ghondwara, in longitude 83°, while, on the west they extend to the unsurveyed frontier of Berar. They abound as far south as Beular, in latitude 19° 40'. On the north-east they are found high up in Cuttack. The extreme length of the territory thus indicated is about 200, its extreme breadth about 100, miles. The climate of these elevated regions is cool; the country is wild and rugged, furnishing the sources of many of our largest streams and rivulets." The features of the Khoonds "in some respects closely resemble those of the inhabitants of the arctic regions, as depicted

in the works of our northern voyagers. They have the square broad faced skull and low narrow forehead, characteristic of the Mongolian races. Their hair is black, coarse, and thin—sometimes wanting on the chin and lips. The face is broad and flat; the mouth wide, lips thick and prominent, and cheek-bones high; the alae of the nose enlarged and flattened; the skin coarse and swarthy; aspect harsh and forbidding. They are somewhat under the middle size, but their frames are stout and strongly knit; and in all physical characteristics as unlike the slight-made, active, smooth-skinned Asiatic as possible. They differ as widely from the inhabitants of Hindoostan in their moral as in their intellectual constitution. Even with the Bheels, the neighbouring hill-tribes, as rude and still more uncivilized than themselves, that affinity which might be looked for does not exist. The extreme barbarism common to both is the only point of resemblance betwixt them. The Khond, though rugged and uncouth in his appearance, is kindly and humane; and if his virtues are not numerous or prominent, neither are his vices. Their dress consists of a cloth bound round the middle in such a way as to make the end hang down behind about as low as the flaps of a coat. They tie their hair in a knot on the temple or forehead, which is sometimes ornamented with a piece of paper, generally with a band of red woolen or other cloth. Each man carries an axe: most of them besides are armed with bows and arrows. The houses they occupy are better constructed by far than are those of the people of the low country adjoining.

"The Earth-goddess being the principal divinity of the Khoonds, her worship is that which engrosses the largest share of public attention. It is, moreover, that which in itself is most deeply fraught with tragic interest, inasmuch as its central point consists in the offering of human sacrifices. Of the origin of this sanguinary rite, the only recoverable tradition among the Khoonds is the following: 'The earth,' say they, 'was originally a crude and instable mass, unfit for cultivation and for the convenient habitation of man. Then said the Earth-goddess, 'Let human blood be spilt before me, and a child be sacrificed.' The soil became forthwith firm and productive, and the deity ordained that man should repeat the rite and live.' Thus the Khond enjoys the ordinary beauty of nature on the express condition of deprecating, by the ceaseless effusion of human blood, the malignity of the power by which its great functions are controlled. This may well be pronounced the most characteristic and fundamental doctrine or principle of his ancestral and national faith; and contribution to the support of the ceremonial in which it is embodied may be regarded as an indispensable condition of association in a Khond-tribe."

"Human sacrifices to the Earth-goddess are either public or private. The considerations on which the performance of public sacrifice is offered by a tribe, or district, or village, are generally these—1st. It is considered necessary that every farm should share the blood of a human victim at the time when each of its principal crops is laid down, while a harvest oblation is deemed scarcely less necessary than the spring sacrifice; and it is considered in the last degree desirable that several offerings, according to the promise of the year, should intervene betwixt them. 2. Should the health of society at large be affected in an extraordinary degree, or should its flocks or herds suffer from disease, or from the ravages of wild beasts; public expiations to the Earth-goddess must be performed. 3. The fortunes of the Abayya being regarded as the chief index of the disposition of the deity towards the portion of society over which he presides, the failure of his crops, the loss of his farm-stock, and sickness or death in his household, are considered as tokens of coming wrath, which cannot be too speedily averted by public atonement with human blood. The private performance of bloody sacrifice is deemed necessary when any extraordinary calamity mark the anger of the deity towards a particular house

\* One letter says: "The Khoonds at Bode sacrificed a great number, as many as 150, last year, just before Capt. M'Pherson went up. Capt. M.P. had succeeded in rescuing 178 victims, whom, on his being surrounded at Bisapudda by the Khoonds, he gave up, on the guarantee of the Rajah that they were not to be sacrificed."

as, for example, when a child, watching a flock, perishes by a tiger—the form which is believed to be assumed by the Earth-goddess for purposes of wrath. On application to the priest, he of course refers the visitation to the neglected worship of the dread deity, and generally demands an immediate victim. If this requisition cannot be complied with, a goat is led to the place of sacrifice, where its ear is cut off, and cast bleeding upon the earth—a pledge that must be redeemed by human blood, at whatever cost, within the year.

"It appears that the number of sacrifices in a Khond district depends upon circumstances so numerous and so variable that it is scarcely possible to form a correct estimate in any case of their annual average. One thing is painfully certain, and that above the possibility of question, that the number is great beyond what any humane spirit can contemplate without a thrill of horror. In one small valley, two miles long and less than three quarters of a mile in breadth, seven victims were discovered whose immolation was temporarily prevented by the vicinity of the British troops; but it was to take place immediately after their departure.

"These unhappy victims are known in the Khond language under the designation of 'Merias.' They do not usually consist of native Khonds, but are provided by a class of Hindu procurers, called 'Panwas,' who purchase them without difficulty upon false pretences, or kidnap them from the poorer classes of Hindus in the low country, either to the order of the Abbayas, or priests, or upon speculation. When conveyed to the mountains, their price is determined by the demand, varying from fifty to a hundred lives, i. e. of sheep, cows, fowls, pigs, &c. A few are always, if possible, kept in reserve in each district to meet sudden demands for atonement. Victims of either sex are equally acceptable to the Earth-goddess—children, whose age precludes a knowledge of their situation, being, for convenience sake, preferred. Brahmins, who have assumed the sacred thread, being perhaps regarded as already consecrated to the deity, and Khonds, are held to be not quite so acceptable; but the word of the procurer is the only guarantee of fitness in these respects which is required. But whatever be the real class, rank, or nation, of the victim, it is a highly characteristic feature of the system, pregnant with important consequences, that in all cases it must be bought with a price—an unbought life being an abomination to the deity.

"The Meria is brought blindfolded to the village by the procurer, and is lodged in the house of the Abbaya—in fetters, if grown up; at perfect liberty if a child. During life, he is regarded as a consecrated being; and if at large, is eagerly welcomed at every threshold. Victims are not unfrequently permitted to attain to years of maturity in total ignorance of their situation; although it is not easy to understand how this ignorance can be maintained. Should one, under such circumstances, form a temporary alliance with the wife or daughter of a Khond, thankfulness is expressed to the deity for the distinction. Generally, however, to a Meria youth, who thus grows up, a wife of one of the Hindu castes upon the mountains is given. Farm stocks and land are presented to him; and should a family be the result, it is held to be born to the fearful condition of the sire. The sacrifice of lives bound to existence by these ties is often foregone; but should the dread difficulty require atonement not easy to be afforded, the victim-father, with all his children, is dragged without hesitation to the altar. It is a rule, however, that persons standing in the relation of direct descent shall not be immolated in the same district. This is, indeed, so rigidly observed, that when a victim is thought in any degree to resemble a former mature sacrifice, he is always out of precaution resold or exchanged. By this means also the risk is avoided of sacrificing, according to the ideas of the Khonds, the same life twice to the divinity.

"All arrangements connected with the ceremony of human sacrifice are conducted by the patriarch

in concert with the priest. The divine will is in every case declared by the latter, as it is communicated to him in visions; and he may demand a victim at any time, even when no visible signs of divine displeasure appear. From the festivals of sacrifice no one is excluded; and at them all feuds are forgotten. They are generally attended by a large concourse of people of both sexes. They continue for three days, which are passed in the indulgence of every form of gross and indescribable excess.\*

"The first day and night are spent exclusively in drinking, feasting, and obscene riot. Upon the second morning, the victim, who has fasted from the preceding evening, is carefully washed, dressed in a new garment, and led forth from the village in solemn procession, with music and dancing, to the Meria grove. This consists of a clump of deep and shadowy forest-trees, and usually stands at a short distance from the hamlet by a rivulet, which is called the Meria stream. It is kept sacred from the axe, and is studiously avoided by the Khond as

\* "The following is one of the hymns of invocation usually sung at the sacrifices:

Goddess of Earth, dread source of ill,  
Thy just revenge overwhelms us still

For rites unpaid:  
But oh, forgive; our stores are small,  
Our lessened means uncertain aid.

Goddess, that taught mankind to feel  
Poison in plants and death in steel,  
A fearful lore,  
Forgive, forgive, and ne'er again  
Shall we neglect thy shrine to stain

With human gore.  
Let plenty all our land o'erspread,  
Make green the ground with living bread,  
Our pastures fill  
So close with cattle safe by side,  
That no base spot may be descried

From distant hill.  
And when unto the broadflat pool,  
Their thirst to quench, their sides to cool,  
Our herds are led,  
So numerous make them that no form  
Of fish or frog, or toad or worm

Survive their tread.  
So fill with sheep each ample fold,  
That he who digs man-deep the mould,  
Their compost rare,  
Meet not a stone. May swine abound,  
Until their plough-like snouts the ground

For seed prepare.  
So fill our eots with childhood's din,  
The voice be rarely heard within,  
And ne'er without.  
Each thatch with crowded poultry hide,  
Give jugs that bruise the fountain's side

With metal stout.  
Oh, Bera Peni! Once again  
Protect us with the grove and plain  
From beasts of prey.  
Nor let sly snake or tiger hold  
Fright children, save in stories old

Of fathers grey.  
Oh, make it each man's only care  
Yearly to build a store-room fair  
For goods god-sent.  
And wealthy rites we'll duly pay;  
Lo, one bought victim now we slay,  
One life present.

"While essential features remain the same, there are in different parts of the country considerable varieties of detail in the mode of offering the sacrifices. It would, however, answer no practical end to quote any of these at length here, as they are only varieties of horrid cruelty. The variety portrayed by Mr. Stevenson appears to diverge most widely from the type described by Captain M'Pherson. The conclusion is as follows: "They proceed to dig a pit; and having killed in sacrifice a hog, the blood is allowed to flow into the pit. The victim, who, if it has been found possible, has been made senseless from intoxication, is seized by five or six persons, thrown into the pit, and his face kept pressed to the earth till suffocated in the bloody mire. All cries, if any, are drowned by the noise of instruments. When supposed to be dead, the jail (priest) cuts a piece of flesh from the body, and buries it with ceremony near the effigy of a peacock and village-idol (represented by three stones), as an offering to the earth; all present then cut pieces of flesh and carry it to their own villages,—part being buried before the same idol, and merely in the boundaries of the villages or fields, to which it is carried in procession with music, &c. The head and face remain untouched; and when the bones are deprived of flesh, they are buried with the head in the pit."

haunted ground. In its centre an upright stake is fixed, at the foot of which the victim is seated, and bound back to it by the priest. He is then anointed with oil, ghee, and turmeric, and adorned with flowers; and a species of reverence, which it is not easy to distinguish from adoration, is paid to him throughout the day. There is now infinite contention to obtain the slightest relic of his person: a particle of the turmeric paste with which he is smeared, or a drop of his spittle, being esteemed, especially by the women, of supreme virtue. In some districts small rude images of beasts and birds in clay are made in great numbers and stuck on poles: of the origin or meaning of which there is no satisfactory explanation. On the third morning the victim is refreshed with a little milk and palm-sago; while the licentious feast, which has scarcely been intermitted during the night, is vociferously renewed. The acceptable place for the intended sacrifice has been discovered during the previous night by persons sent out for this purpose. The ground is probed in the dark with long sticks; and the first deep chink that is pierced is considered the spot indicated by the Earth-goddess. As the victim must not suffer bound, nor, on the other hand, exhibit any shew of resistance, the bones of his arms, and, if necessary, those of his legs, are now broken in several places. The priest, assisted by the abbaya and by one or two of the elders of the village, then takes the branch of a green tree, which is cleft a distance of several feet down the centre. They insert the Meria within the rift: fitting it in some districts to his chest; in others to his throat. Cords are next twisted round the open extremity of the stake, which the priest, aided by his assistants, strives with his whole force to close. All preparations being now concluded, about noon the priest gives the signal by slightly wounding the victim with his axe. Instantly the promiscuous crowd, that erewhile had issued forth with stunning shouts and pealing music, rush with maddening fury upon the sacrifice—wildly exclaiming, 'We bought you with a price, and no sin rests on us'; they tear his flesh in pieces from the bones! And thus the horrid rite is consummated! Each man then bears away his bloody shreds to his fields, and from thence returns straight home. For three days after the sacrifice the inhabitants of the village which afforded it remain dumb, communicating with each other only by signs, and remaining unvisited by strangers. At the end of this period a buffalo is slaughtered at the place of sacrifice, when all tongues are loosened!"

The other fearful features in the polity of the Khonds are female infanticide and promiscuous cohabitation.

"The practice of female infanticide, and the usages with which it is connected, alternately as a cause and an effect, deforms the system of life of a large division of this middle Khond population, including that of all 'Pondacole' (with the exception of Degi), the tribes of Gufodye, those of Bori, and much of the 'sacrificing' population in the quarter of Gaddapore." In Bodoghoro the custom is regarded with abhorrence. This usage appears to have existed in these tracts from time immemorial; and there generally the life of no female child is spared, except when a woman's first child is a female, or when the head of a tribe or of a branch desires to form connexions by intermarriage. The infants are destroyed by exposure in the jungle ravines immediately after their birth; and I found many villages without a single female child.

"This custom has no connexion with—bears no reference whatever to—religious feeling. The facts which the Khonds allege as accounting for, and as justifying it, are amongst the most obvious and necessary of its consequences, reference being had to the usages which here prevail relative to the property which is involved in marriage-contracts and to the very peculiar ideas which exist respecting the relations of the sexes. The Khond bridegroom every where gives a consideration for his



wife to her father, which is called 'Seddi,' in contradistinction to the price which is paid for a woman of any other race, who, as a wife, becomes property. Should a woman quit her husband at any time, he is entitled to the repayment of this consideration, deducting the nuptial expenses, which the father has incurred: while, should she become the wife of another, the father has a right to recover the same amount from him. Women have the right to quit their husbands at pleasure, with this sole restriction, that they cannot leave them when pregnant, nor for one year after the birth of a child; and upon the other hand, no man who is without a wife can refuse to receive any woman who chooses to enter his house to become in that capacity his mistress. And the women of Pondacole, for example, exercise this right of change on an average four or five times in their lives; some twice as often; but very few not at all. And to do so is a very easy process. In some parts of the country, in a village containing a hundred men, not above twenty, or at most thirty, women are to be found; so there is always abundant room for choice; while, should the repugnance of the person preferred be extreme, or should there be any other temporary difficulty, his tribe must receive the seeker of his bed until it is overcome, or she would pass on, heaping shame upon the rejectors, declaring of them that such people had once lived, but had ceased to exist, and deep disgrace would attach to them. The wife, upon changing her husband and domicile, takes with her her child or children if they be young, the father reclaiming them at his pleasure at a later period. No new marriage ceremony is performed on the occasion of such change; and the new connexion is in every point of view a marriage, and the woman is, as before, a wife.

"So much trouble and vexation, so many serious consequences arise, say the Khonds, out of each such matrimonial change, out of the exaction by the deserted husband of his original payment to the woman's father, and out of the simultaneous process of levying a like sum from the new spouse, that a married daughter is to any man and to his tribe, unless he be a rich patriarch, a curse. The amount of the marriage consideration, and the degree of difficulty attendant either upon its repayment by fathers, or on its production by husbands (voluntary and involuntary), as well as the power of the woman to range amongst these,—all depend, of course, upon the proportion which exists between males and females. In Pondacole, where few female children are permitted to live, the marriage consideration amounts to farm stock, &c. of the value of from fifty to seventy rupees, so that no one who has a daughter married can tell, save during the intervals to which I have alluded, what part of his property he may consider his own; nor can his tribe, which is answerable for his engagements, know what sum it may be called upon at any time to make good for him, nor what important payments it may have to enforce in his favour against members of other tribes.

"In the adjacent district of Bodoghor, on the other hand, where the practice of female infanticide is regarded with detestation, the consideration given for a wife is nearly nominal, not exceeding three or four rupees. Hence every man there is married, or, as is extremely common, from the abundance of women, lives in concubinage, which is regarded as an honourable connexion; and wives, although in theory as free to change their husbands as in Pondacole, have no power to enjoy that right. The Khonds of Pondacole, it is to be observed, consider the position of a concubine as highly disgraceful to a woman; and they partly justify the practice of infanticide on the ground of its preventing that evil. But their feeling upon this point is, I believe, from the whole spirit of their manners, clearly a secondary one, and has arisen out of the high marriageable value of their females.

"The extreme license which exists with respect to the marriage tie does not appear to conduce in any degree to fidelity to their voluntary attach-

ments on the part of Khond women. On the contrary, their great boast is the number of intrigues of which their lovers have been convicted, and have paid the penalty, called 'prúnjú,' a fixed amount of fine of twelve head of cattle and one pig: a woman advanced in life will taunt a younger female with the remark, that before her age six or eight 'prúnjús' had been paid for her sake. And the same feelings and the same practice, it is to be remarked, exist amongst the people of Bodoghor, who do not destroy their female infants. Neither the character nor the influence in society of Khond women—the latter of which is extraordinarily great—appears to suffer in any degree whatever from their indulgence either in matrimonial change or in intrigue.

"The desertion of his wife is a matter of great concern to a Khond husband, unless he is rich enough immediately to supply her place. But in cases of infidelity, if the 'prúnjú' is readily produced, he is held to have no serious cause of complaint. Should a Khond of these districts have even ocular testimony of his wife's faithlessness, he never proceeds to any act of violence against the lover; while to strike a woman, or even to insult her seriously, would entail lasting disgrace upon a man's family. The convicted wife is excluded from her husband's house generally for a day, until the 'prúnjú' is adjusted, when the affair is considered settled. In a few tribes, indeed, which may, perhaps, value themselves upon a nicer sense and observance of the point of honour, it is customary for the husband and his wife's lover to do a species of battle previous to the settlement of damages; but not in right earnest, with bow and battle-axe, but with arms of courtesy. The combatants cast loose their long hair, and each seizing his adversary's side locks, they wrestle furiously for some hours, until both are utterly exhausted. Then the 'prúnjú' is agreed upon with some modifications, and a dinner of reconciliation is eaten.

"At the lowest estimate, above one thousand female children must be destroyed annually in the districts of Pondacole, Gulodye, and Bori."

#### ORIGINAL, AND CURIOSITIES OF LITERATURE.

##### Pen-and-Ink Portraits.

By WILLIAM READ, Esq.\*

Author of "Rings et Nôir."

No. 1.—*The Vampire.*

"I look into the world, and there I see  
Things that do strike my bloodshot eyeballs back  
Into the brain." BEN JONSON.

"Truth, they say, is stranger than fiction; and so the good old lady found it, who believed there were mountains of sugar and rivers of rum, but repudiated the notion of a flying fish!"—*The Times*, Aug. 27, 1845.

Some casuists make the Spartan rule their own—

*Guilt is not guilt unless the guilt be known!*

Old Bailey evidence, Westminster courts,

Assize intelligence, police reports,

Exhibit but those spots upon the skin

Which indicate the plague at work within—

A bubble on the pool, enough to shew

That something agitates the mass below.

Poor clumsy rascals swing, or curse in chains,

Less for their want of honesty than brains;

While nobler culprits' scapes such bitter fruit,

Because, though not more honest, more astute.

A wretch may sting your heart, distract your brain,

Or touch your character and leave the stain.

\* The author has addressed the following note to us with the vigorous poem, to which we have pleasure in giving insertion:—"This attempt is submitted as a specimen from a forthcoming volume. Poetry is not popular, and the cause is sufficiently transparent. People have not time to pursue visionary butterdies, and are too discriminating to endure longer either 'the shallow unfathomable' or 'the lath-and-plaster Verandah and flower-pot' school of inspiration. But there are thousands yet awake to the true and beautiful; thousands, even in this iron age, who, amid the din of machinery and the insanity of speculation, can value and understand

"The sterling bullion of an English line."

The title of poet is a proud one, and requires a fine intellectual estate to support it; a title, therefore, to which a mere sketcher of pen-and-ink portraits advances no pretension."

Embitter past and future, wrong, oppress,—  
Do all, and yet not *legally* transgress!

I leave unnoticed here a hydra brood,  
No longer trusted once they're understood:  
Paid agitators, quacks, mad priests, projectors,  
Trustees, attorneys, stock-jobbers, directors  
(If names like these deform the tortured line,  
Or break your jaw, the fault is none of mine),—  
Theirs be the widow's curse, the orphan's bread,  
Since they, though not their victims, must be fed!  
But let them not believe I mean to spurn  
Their claim to notice: each shall have his turn,  
From Persian tissue down to Monmouth rag;  
Ay, lower yet,—from Quirk and Fang to Brag.  
A friend, who well their tender mercies knew,  
Would thus apostrophise the sordid crew,  
While, smiling as in scorn upon his fate,  
He stood an exile, proud though desolate:  
Three things, not found in heaven, were his assets,—  
His errors, his misfortunes, his regrets!  
"Ye have done work for me!" as Timon told  
The parasite he flogged, who came for gold:  
"Ye have done work for me, deceitful, dark!"  
You therefore live in cities—in Sark:  
A pilot-coat and sealskin-cap my garb;  
A skiff my cab, a bounding wave my barb;  
The race of Alderney my Derby-course,  
Unequalled in velocity and force;  
For lamps the beacon-lights are here in vogue,  
Far flashing from the Caskets and La Hogue;  
My club the naked cliff, a cave my hall,  
And for my opera the surge and squall!"

Another class must now employ my lay,  
Unsentenced, yet iniquitous as they:  
Such as rejoice in more emblazoned names—  
St. George, thy denizens, and thine, St. James!  
One let us here distinguish from the throng,—  
Wrap, like a mummy, in the folds of song;  
That when unrolled three thousand years to come—  
Dumb evidence, but eloquent though dumb—  
The wise may note, with speculation nice,  
To what perfection we had carried vice;  
And curious antiquarians mark, surprised,  
A people so remote, so *civilised*!  
Ay, one let us select, perhaps the best,  
And gibbet him for warning to the rest!

Behold the portrait! truer cannot start  
From calotype or photographic art.  
Look on that face! and what can words avail?  
Those features, hardly human, tell their tale!  
Revolting as he is, beware his wiles;  
But trust him at your peril when he smiles;  
While art employs each aid of tint and line  
To illustrate some countenance divine,  
His lineaments can only be exprest  
By symbols such deformities suggest.  
His face, a macefactor's on the rack;  
His form, a toilet-comb, all teeth and back:  
Expression such can only be surmised  
By those who mark a dead man galvanised.  
A votary of fashion ne'ertheless—  
So dancing dogs exhibit in court-dress!

"Enough!" you cry; "why this is merely chaff,  
Meant less to make us excrete than laugh:  
A figure in the magic lamp's burlesque;  
A monster in fantastic arabesque!"

So may you long imagine! May you ne'er  
Be caught, like other victims, in his snare!  
E'er now a thunderbolt hath crushed the feast—  
A fatal blow been felt, expected least—  
Some wretch, like him who, livid with affright,  
Drew Priam's curtain at the dead of night,  
May rush into your chamber, and unfold  
The heavy tale you could have wished untold.  
These may not follow to disturb your ease;  
But he can call down evils worse than these,  
Your name polluted by his poisoned tongue;  
Your fortune ruined, and your bosom wrung.  
Nay, when your cash and credit both are gone,  
Insatiable the leech will yet hold on,  
Use, if he still can use you, nothing nice,  
Your skin for parchment, or your bones for dice!

Let him not cross your threshold! there be those  
Who, from the hour he entered, date their woes.  
Let him not cross your threshold! Eden smiled  
Till the serpent entered and beguiled.  
The friend—that second self—who used to haunt  
Each step you took, now gives you the avaut—  
Your shadow while the sun of fortune shone;  
But where's your shadow now the sun is gone?  
The wife you cherished, she who blest your lot,  
Betrayed, seduced, becomes—ah, woe is not!  
The son you love, the last who could deceive,  
Will speculate upon the wealth you'll leave;  
Embrace, regard you with a beaming eye,  
And wonder when the devil you will die!  
From whence this change, this treachery, this pest,  
That damps your bread with tears and breaks your rest?  
'Twere easy told—the Vampire is your guest!

Now for his mind, although the sketch be tame,  
A mind so well befitting such a frame!  
Versed in each abject art that honour hates—  
The monster shocks, and yet fascinates!  
Prone with the stream, howe'er it flow, to swim,  
Quick to comply, howe'er absurd the whim,

What'er you do is best, or say is right—  
He fawns and licks the hand he means to bite—  
Till, winning on your weakness, like a child  
You shrink at first, but soon grow reconciled;  
His bland assumption, his assuring look,  
The plume and tinsel which conceal the hook!  
But if perchance your penetrating eye  
Perceive the angler and reject the fly,  
Behold the change! that tongue which now applauds,  
Next moment curses you by all his gods!  
His life one plot, one concentrated aim,  
To pick your purse or vilify your fame.  
Yet even he may lay an erring snare,  
And catch a Tartar when he's least aware;  
Be taught to feel the anguish he inflicts,  
And shun a path which mercy interdicts.  
Alas for mercy! 'twere as wise to say,  
The panther should compassionate his prey!  
Wished I to see a woman's bosom wrung,  
My instrument of torture were his tongue;  
Yet can he flatter with consummate skill,  
And win the captive listener to his will;  
For I have marked her feast upon his speech,  
Nor find till stung the wasp within the peach!

Fear'd by the weak, avoided by the wise,  
Endured by many, although all despise,  
He worms his way whatever may befall,  
And, like an epidemic, visits all!  
Not only is his scowl prepared to slay,  
But he can smile a character away!  
One wretch I knew who fell beneath his spite,  
And fame and fortune perished in the night.  
What'er the charge, 'twas never breathed aloud,  
But flashed, like silent lightning, from a cloud,  
And scathed its victim, heedless at the time,  
And innocent as infancy of crime!  
He saw at length the quondam friend steer wide—  
The Priest and Levite took the other side.  
But what of that? it could not be to shun  
One whom so often they had fawned upon.  
And was there no Samaritan to pour  
Some oil into the wound? to console and cure?  
None! 'twas some curse that could not be assuaged,  
For he who loved him shuddered and recoiled;  
While he, the friend, the unsuspected foe,  
Enjoy'd a triumph fiends alone can know.  
Nor ceased the dark pursuit by success cheer'd,  
Until at last his victim disappeared,  
Smote by a shadow, withered by a breath,  
As if some phantom hand inflicted death!

Thus dark suggestion works on weaker minds,  
Thus malice rather hints the fault than finds;  
Vile stranger to the honest use of speech—  
The base insinuator, the bold impeach.

A long, dark, devious course of evil run,  
With reputation lost and thousands won:  
The Vampire weds—youth, beautiful the bride  
Whose evil placed her by his side.  
He weds; but with the vow upon his lip  
Takes care to tie no knot he may not slip!  
So when it served his turn to be unwed,  
He snatched his fether like a spider's thread,  
(Succeeding by some preconcerted flaw,  
Whereby he legally outtraced the law);  
And reckoning on the gains he beguiled,  
Betrayed his wife and bastardized his child;  
The mother in a madhouse died heartbroken,  
The infant, although his, was snatched to heaven!  
Did conscience smite him then, like wrath divine?  
He read the horrid news, and went to dine:  
The party jovial, full of life and zest,  
And his the clear-est laugh, the happiest jest;  
Though folded in his pocket slept a tale  
Had made the cheek of Debauch turn pale!

To drag him into light, he mine the task—  
Come forth, incarnate demon, and unmask!  
"O for a whip in every honest hand,  
To lash the rascal naked through the land!"

Killybegh, Downshire, September 1846.

## ORIGINAL POETRY.

### TO-MORROW.

To-morrow, yea, to-morrow! change and gladness,  
The ripened harvest of our hopes, are there;  
To-day has yielded its own weight of sadness,  
Proving how much the burdened heart may bear;  
But to its depth the morrow's love hath spoken  
Of welcome refuge from the evil past,  
Of truths fulfilled whose promise all seemed broken,  
Of frail affections gathered safe at last.

To-morrow, yea, to-morrow.

To-morrow! we have paid the slow rewards  
A weary service through uncounted days;  
Time hath been slighted as the sole retarder,  
The never-passed besetter of our ways:  
We see the wished-for light in distance glimmer,  
As o'er some far-off island of the blest;  
We see the clouds around us make it dimmer,  
Yet we press onward to the promised rest.

To-morrow, yea, to-morrow.

To-morrow! trusted in our happy childhood,  
And bailed with rapture mid its present joy;  
It brought our merry gambol in the wildwood,  
Planting a faith that years might not destroy:

What though youth's hopes lay withered in its keeping,  
For hope even earth hath one unchanging spring;  
And from the ashes where the past lies sleeping  
Shoots the glad light shall its fulfilment bring.

To-morrow, still to-morrow.

To-morrow! shrine whereon true love hath lifted  
Its idols, all forgetting they are dust;  
'Tis well the heart's devotion is not gifted  
To search beyond the threshold of its trust;  
Well that the onward tendencies of feeling  
Forbid its lingering mid the wastes of old;  
That o'er the track on which death's steps are stealing  
Sweet flowers spring up whose bloom may all unfold.

To-morrow, still to-morrow.

To-morrow! vague eternity that vaunteth  
Thy wondrous rule o'er the pretence of time,  
Love with undying zeal thy region haunteth,  
Joy, still before us, forms thy proper clime;  
What to atone for the neglect of present,  
The anxious past, hast thou reserved in store?  
Where are the glorious scenes, the voices pleasant,  
That the tired heart may own, and cry no more.

To-morrow, yet to-morrow?

To-morrow! broken bubble of the dreaming,  
Cheat of the heart to its own trusts untrue,  
Lured from its strongholds by the specious seeming  
Which its own vain desires at distance drew;  
Love and contentment in the present centre,  
Each forms of earthly bliss a perfect whole;  
One only rest remains wherein to enter,  
The rest of God—there lives for hope the sole.

To-morrow, glad to-morrow!

MRS. C. TINSLEY.

## VARIETIES.

*Adelphi.*—*Eugenia Claireille*, a three-act drama, was produced on Thursday; and its character may be understood when we say it is of the class of Adelphi melo-dramatic productions—a mixture of the tragic and comic, or rather of the pathetic and farcical. Celeste and O. Smith, heroine and villain; Paul Bedford and Mrs. F. Mathews, the humorous, how could the piece fail of being well received?

*Sadler's Wells.*—Miss Laura Addison has increased her dramatic claim on public favour by a good performance of *Jafier*, especially in the more impassioned scenes. Mr. Creswick a fair *Romeo*, Mr. Phelps an excellent *Mercutio*, and Mrs. Marston a clever *Nurse*.

*St. James's Church Piccadilly* is now undergoing thorough repairs, restoration, and decoration.

*The Bedroom Marbles*, heretofore frequently mentioned and described in the *Literary Gazette*, have been safely deposited in the British Museum. Mr. W. Hamilton, it may be remembered from our report, at one of the meetings of the Royal Society of Literature gave strong reasons for believing that these ancient remains were part of the famous tomb of Mausolus, King of Caria, erected by his widow above 2000 years ago.

*Miss Linwood.*—A marble monument to the ingenious Miss Linwood has been erected at Leicester. Had it been a statue, it must have been a Torso!

*Present to Cambridge University.*—Capt. F. P. Blackwood, who has lately returned from a survey of Torres Straits, has offered the University a complete collection of preserved skins of all the known birds of Australia, male and female, and of several of Malacca. They are in excellent plumage and preservation, and will be a very important addition to what the University already possesses in this department of natural history.

*Vibration on Railways.*—Dr. Robinson of Armagh, stated in one of the sections of the British Association at Southampton, that he had ascertained the vibration of a railway train at the distance of 15,000 feet, by observing the effect on quicksilver. Prof. Airy, we are told, is nevertheless unalarmed by the extension of the Greenwich line so near to the Observatory.

*African Zoology.*—Mr. Louis Fraser, from Tunis, attended the Southampton British Association meeting, for the purpose of exhibiting specimens and drawings of his collection of natural history. But he was affronted by some difficulties placed in his way by the authorities, and, though announced in the list for Wednesday, did not make his appearance.

*Velasquez.*—The newspapers state that a fine Velasquez, representing Philip IV. and his court at a boar hunt, has been saved from exportation to Holland, and purchased for the National Gallery from Mr. Farrar the eminent picture-dealer.

*International Copy-right.*—Saxony has acceded to the treaty between England and Prussia. (See *Literary Gazette* No. 1546.)

*Sir John Williams*, one of the judges in the Court of Queen's Bench, died rather unexpectedly after a short indisposition, on the 10th, at his seat in Suffolk. He distinguished himself at College, (Trinity, Cambridge) and as a literary man wrote some able reviews in the *Edinburgh*, particularly on Greek classics, the orations of Demosthenes, and plays.

*M. Jouy.*—Among the recent deaths at Paris is announced that of M. Jouy, the author of a number of popular works. Among them his early sketches of Parisian manners, entitled *L'Herminette de la Chaussée d'Antin*, first made him known to the English public, through a selection of the most lively and characteristic papers, translated by W. Jerdon, and published in 3 vols. (Longmans), 1811 or 1815, under the title of the *Paris Spectator*, which was popular at a time when translations from the French were few and far between. M. Jouy afterwards took his Herminette into the provinces, but, though still lively and entertaining, the continuation was not so successfully wrought out as the original idea. His *Scylla*, obtained more fame. He understood the English language well, but had no great affection for the English nation. Of its rule and conquests in India he always wrote and spoke in terms of bitter indignation; and he rather think that he must himself have been in India, and there gathered and garnered his antipathies on the subject.

*Kaufman*, the Prussian poet, and translator of Shakspeare, Burns, &c. committed suicide at Paris about ten days ago.

## LITERARY NOVELTIES.

### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Black's Picturesque Tourist of Scotland, 5th edit. 12mo, 8s. 6d.—Philosophical Lectures, by Rev. W. Leask. 18mo, 2s.—Lessons of Life and Death; a Memorial of Sarah Bull, by Eliza Ritchie. 12mo, 2s.—Parry's (Ed.) Series of Sermons on Ordination Vows, 12mo, 2s. 6d.—Gaulier's Geography, 11th edit. square, 3s.—Ralf Gemmel, by E. Pollok. 18mo, 1s. 6d.—The Persecuted Family, by John 18mo, 1s. 6d.—Memoirs of the late Mrs. Ann Johnston, 2d edit. 12mo, 2s. 6d.—Turrell's French Phraseology, 12mo, 4s.—Liebig's Letters on Chemistry, First Series, 3d edit. 4s. 6d.—Great Tom of Oxford, by Author of "Peter Plagiarist." 2s. 6d.—New edit. 4s.—Hewitson's Traveller's Check Book, square, new edit. 3s.—Hewitson's French Tutor, 12mo, 5th edit. 4s.—Payne's Panacea of the Rhine, Sixty Views, obl. gilt, 10s.—Soyer's Cookery, 8vo, 2d edit. 21s.—Pounds, Shillings, and Pence, by T. Mortin, 9th edit. 12mo, 1s. 6d.—Hewitson's Coloured Illustrations of the Eggs of British Birds, with Description of Eggs, Nests, &c., 2 vols. 8vo, 4s. 10s.

## DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

[This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

1846.	h. m.	1846.	h. m.
Sept. 19	11 53 48.6	Sept. 23	11 52 57.6
20	59 37.6	24	59 46.6
21	59 37.6	25	59 46.6
22	59 47.8		

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A number of correspondents must excuse us both from public and private answers till next week, on account of the Southampton work. Other postponements, &c. plead for similar indulgence for the same reason.

The Fine Arts Institute dispute must, *inter alia*, rest till next Saturday; and of the Gloucester Congress of the British Archaeological Association, we can only insert this week Mr. Fairholt's paper with which the sitting at Chesham commenced.

We thank Mr. Gilson for the diagram and explanation of his "self-acting break" for railway carriages, which he thinks may be adopted with little expense for the preservation of life. It seems well adapted to its purpose, but Mr. Gilson's description, employing accepted terms, involves an apparent humorous contradiction. He says, "when the steam is shut off, the carriages by their own speed begin to break themselves one upon the other!" How for the preservation of life may the passengers avoid the general smash?



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sincerely for the great assistance which he has afforded  
towards the success of the expedition, by sending us his  
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It is necessary to state that, in the original letter, the words  
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that it talks with a single one.

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